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TOURIST'S GUIDE
TO
BEDFORDSHIRE
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TOURIST'S GUIDE
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TOURIST'S GUIDE

TO

BEDFORDSHIRE.

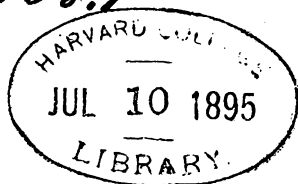
BY
Albert Jones
A. J. FOSTER, M.A.

VICAR OF WOOTTON, BEDFORDSHIRE.

WITH MAP.

LONDON: EDWARD STANFORD,
26 & 27 COCKSPUR STREET, CHARING CROSS, S.W.
1889.

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PREFACE.

THE county of Bedford, which is the smallest in England, with the exceptions of Huntingdonshire, Rutlandshire, and Middlesex, possesses many features of interest, especially in its natural formation, for within its small compass we find at least three distinct systems of geological formation and natural scenery. Moreover, its accessibility from London and its central position in the country make it at least partially known to many travellers by railway. To the antiquarian it is interesting from the number and locality of its ancient earthworks, both British and Roman, while of more recent remains there are those of many monastic houses, and its parish churches, from the diversity of styles, found often in a single example, are well worthy of study by the ecclesiologist. Those interested in manufactures will here find two important centres of straw-plaiting and hand-lace making. The sportsman will find three packs of fox-hounds: the Oakley, the Cambridgeshire, and the Hertfordshire, with fixtures in the county throughout the season, and there are also some packs of harriers. Good partridge and cover

shooting is to be had in many parts. The Ouse and Ivel are both good streams for the coarser kinds of freshwater fish, and there are trout in the upper part of the latter river, on the Hertfordshire border. There are several important gentlemen's seats, such as Woburn, Wrest, Southill, and Haynes, some of which contain good collections of pictures and antiquities. The central portion of the county is extremely picturesque, and in the south are healthy, wide-spreading chalk downs.

The scheme of this guide is to take the lines of railway in the county as routes, and to group the various objects of interest round the different stations as centres. The only exception is the route through the north-east of the county, where no railway exists at present.

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TOURIST'S GUIDE TO BEDFORDSHIRE.

INTRODUCTION. TOPOGRAPHY.

BEDFORDSHIRE is $86\frac{1}{2}$ m. long from N. to S. at its greatest length, and $22\frac{1}{2}$ m. broad at its greatest breadth.

Corrections

age 10, line 21, for Dunne read Dunno
15, " 16, for station read house
21, " 7, for Waldo read Faldo
26, " 25, for are read were
33, " 21, for Hillersdens read St. Margaret
63, " 20, for All Saints read St. Margaret
65, last line, for reproduction read restoration
67, line 20, for St. Laurence read St. Edmund
71, " 35, for Eversleigh read Eversley
73, " 37, for Reformatory, read Orphanage
77, lines 25 and 26, read and the old rectory stood
85, " 14 and 15, read having been thrown down by the fall
of the central tower in the 12th century

Tourist's Guide to Bedfordshire

TOURIST'S GUIDE

TO

BEDFORDSHIRE.

INTRODUCTION.

1

TOPOGRAPHY.

BEDFORDSHIRE is $86\frac{1}{2}$ m. long from N. to S. at its greatest length, and $22\frac{1}{2}$ m. broad at its greatest breadth. The county town of Bedford is situated on the Ouse, nearly in the centre of the county. Its distance from London by rail is $47\frac{1}{2}$ m. The population of the county in 1881 was 149,478. The area is 294,988 acres, and it was divided into the hundreds of Stodden, Willey, and Barford in the N.; Biggleswade and Clifton in the E.; Wixamtree in the centre; Redbournstoke in the W.; and Manhead and Flitt in the S. Its present divisions are 7 police divisions, 2 county-court circuits, and 6 poor-law unions. The number of parishes is 136, all contained in the Archdeaconry of Bedford.

Geological Features, Climate, and Soil.

The geological formations represented in the county of Bedford are, in descending order, *Lower Chalk* and *Chalk Marl*, *Upper Greensand*, *Gault*, *Lower Greensand*, *Oxford Clay*, *Cornbrash*, and *Great Oolite*. These form more or less regular belts, stretching across the county in an E.N.E. and W.S.W. direction, with a gentle dip towards the S.E. The ridge of *Lower Chalk*, which occupies the S.E. part of the county, forms the northerly

B

continuation of the Chiltern Hills, and rises to a height of 500 feet above the level of the sea. It is skirted along its northern boundary by a band of indurated chalk-rock, known locally as "Clunch," to which the name of "Totternhoe stone" has been given. This stone was at one time extensively quarried at Totternhoe, near Dunstable, and affords, when burnt, a good lime. To the chalk succeeds the *Gault*, a stiff blue or white marly clay, which occupies a band from 2 to 4 m. in breadth, crossing the county from Leighton Buzzard by Gravenhurst and Henlow to Wrestlingworth. The gault is succeeded by a parallel belt of *Lower Greensand*, extending from Woburn by Ampthill and Biggleswade to Pottton, and rising in a well-defined range of wooded hills about Ampthill and Warden. This greensand is generally ferruginous, especially in the neighbourhood of Woburn, where it contains a large quantity of somewhat poor ironstone. Here also beds of *Fuller's-earth* have been extensively worked, and at one time this mineral was known by the name of "Woburn Earth." Fossil wood is also found in considerable quantity. The centre of the county is occupied by the *Oxford Clay*, a tenacious adhesive clay of a dark blue colour, becoming brown on exposure. This stratum forms the vale of Bedford, and affords a strong clay soil, occupied chiefly as grazing land. It supplies several brickkilns in the immediate vicinity of the town of Bedford; and in one of these brickfields a portion of a new species of *Plesiosaurus* was discovered in 1833. Many vertebræ of fossil Saurians have been found at Newenham Mill, about a mile E. of Bedford; and an entire specimen of *Plesiosaurus* was obtained in 1833 from a brickfield about 2 m. N.W. of the town, near the Ouse. A thin band of *Cornbrash* crops out immediately to the W. of Bedford, and forms a low escarpment along the N. side of the river Ouse as far as Sharnbrook, where, bending northward, it runs by Souldrop and Wymington to the valley of the Nen. A similar outcrop on the opposite side of the valley forms the N.W. flank of Stagsden, Carlton, and Chellington Hills. The cornbrash is succeeded by the *Great Oolite*, which occupies the extreme N.W. corner of the county. It is generally covered deeply with drift clay, containing great numbers of chalk flints. A small outcrop of the *Upper Greensand* occurs in one locality only, crossing the S.W. boundary of the county between

Eaton Bray in Bedfordshire and Eddlesborough in Buckinghamshire. Along the courses of the Ouse and lower Ivel there are large deposits of valley gravel, in addition to the more recent river alluvium. About Bedford this alluvial tract is from 2 to 3 m. in breadth.

"The climate of this county, partaking of that of the interior of England, is not so wet as the western coast, nor so much exposed to cold winds as the eastern maritime counties. The air in general is mild and healthy, somewhat keen on the chalk hills, and moister on the cold wet clays. The surface of the county is much varied, but none of the hills rise high or abruptly, with the exception of the chalk ridge which is a continuation of the Chiltern Hills, and which appears high only by comparison with more gentle undulations. Many of the slopes of the hills are skirted with woods and coppice, which add much to the general appearance of the country when viewed from an eminence. The soil varies greatly. On entering the county from the S., the soil is composed of chalk, covered with a very thin layer of earth, which is consequently nearly in a state of nature, and only fit for sheep-walks. On descending the hills, there occurs a mixture of chalk and clay, known by the name of 'white land,' which is stiff but tolerably fertile. Various kinds of loam, chiefly clay, succeed till you arrive at a sandy belt which stretches obliquely across the county from Leighton Buzzard to Biggleswade and Potton on the borders of Cambridgeshire. Along this belt runs the river Ivel, which falls into the Ouse at Tempsford. Between the course of the Ivel and the valley of the Ouse near Bedford lies a tract of stiff soil of various texture and quality, but quite different from the light soils found in the belt. Along the course of the Ouse, especially near Bedford, a gravelly soil prevails, covered in some places with a layer of rich brown earth, well adapted for every kind of agricultural produce. Proceeding N. of Bedford, the general character of the soil is stiff, wet, and poor, with very few exceptions. The most fertile spots in the county are in the brown earth before mentioned, in the valley of the Ouse near Bedford, and in the sandy belt, where the soil washed down from the hills has accumulated, in particular basins, on a porous substratum. These soils, composed of rich loam and of great depth, are admirably adapted for market-

gardens, for which the county has long been noted. The parish of Sandy in particular, not far from Biggleswade, and some others, produce an abundance of vegetables, not only for the supply of the neighbourhood, but also for London and other distant markets. At the same time there are spots both in the chalk hills and in the sandy eminences which are as barren and unproductive as any in England, especially where a grey loose sand abounds, on which nothing but ling or heath will grow. These are scarcely of any use but as rabbit warrens, although some of them have been brought into cultivation. Along the river Ivel, in the parishes of Tingrith, Flitwick, Westoning, Flitton, Maulden, and others, a considerable quantity of ferruginous peat is found."

Flora.

A work on the Flora of Bedfordshire by the Rev. Charles Abbot, Vicar of Oakley, in the county, was published in 1798, which gives a full list of the plants of Bedfordshire, arranged according to the system of Linnæus. The Bedfordshire Natural History Society are about to bring out a modern work on the subject.

Rivers.

The chief river is the Ouse, commonly called the Great Ouse, to distinguish it from other rivers of the same name. It approaches the county from Buckinghamshire, and, after forming for a short distance the boundary between the two counties, crosses Bedfordshire with so winding a course that, although the distance from the point where it first enters the county to the point where it leaves it is, in a direct line, not quite 17 m., the length of the river itself between the same two points is probably not less than 45 m.

Ouse having Olney past, as she were waxed mad,
From her first staidier course immediately doth gad,
And in meandering gyves doth whirl herself about,
That, this way, here and there, back, forward, in, and out.
And like a wanton girl, oft doubting in her gait,
In labyrinth-like turns and twinings intricate,
Thro' those rich fields doth run.—*Drayton*.

The average depth of the Ouse is considered to be about 10 ft., and it is fordable in several places. It is subject to sudden and destructive floods at all seasons, and the older bridges are constructed with numerous flood-arches. Fuller speaks of an old proverb which calls the Ouse "the Bailiff of Bedford," the distrainer of hay and cattle on low-lying meadows. In its course through Bedfordshire the Ouse is increased by many streams, which flow into it on each bank, but none of these are of any size or importance except the Ivel.

The Ivel is considered to have its rise near Baldock in Hertfordshire, but the principal branch of it rises on the N.W. slope of the Chiltern Hills, a little to the N.E. of Dunstable, and flowing to the N.E. it unites with the Ouse at the village of Tempsford, after a course of about 30 m. The fish of these rivers are pike, perch, bream, chub, bleak, cray-fish, eels, dace, roach, and gudgeon. Biggleswade on the Ivel was formerly particularly celebrated for its eels. There is an angling association at Bedford, and tickets can be obtained for fishing in the Ouse above and below the town. Many of the mill-ponds in the county will afford a good day's sport.

The Ouse is navigable from the sea to Bedford, and the Ivel was once navigable as far as Shefford. The locks on the latter river, however, have been built up, and those on the Ouse are hardly passable. Boating and boat-racing have developed very much of late years on the Ouse at Bedford, and there is at least one racing eight-oar to be seen on the water there.

History and Antiquities.

Professor Freeman, of Oxford, remarks somewhere, "One can hardly say that Bedfordshire has a history," but although this county has played no great part in the principal events of the country, the various occupants of our island have all left their marks within its borders, and it has been the scene of more than one battle or siege. "At the time of the Roman invasion Bedfordshire appears to have formed part of the territory of the Cattieuchlani, a people conjectured by Camden to be the same as the Cassii, mentioned by Cæsar among the tribes who submitted to him during his second invasion of the island.

In common with the other inhabitants of South Britain, they fell under the Roman domination. Three roads which may be referred to this period, or a still more ancient one, crossed this county, and several camps or earthworks still remain. Of these roads the Watling Street runs in a north-westerly direction, and coincides in this county with the high road from London through Dunstable and Fenny Stratford to Coventry. It was probably of British origin, though used and improved by the Romans, who had on it their station of Durocibrivæ (Antoninus) or Forum Dianæ (Richard of Cirencester), now Dunstable. The Ikening or Ickneild Street, also of British origin, runs in a south-westerly direction, chiefly along the chalk downs, through Dunstable. The third road, a Roman military road, coincides with the present high road from near Baldock to the vicinity of Biggleswade, where the modern road makes a bend, while the ancient road pursues a more direct course." (*Penny Cyclopædia*.) This road passes through Stratton (Street town) to the camps at Sandy, and on to Godmanchester in Huntingdonshire. On the edge of a low range of the Chilterns at Maiden Bower and Totternhoe, near Dunstable, are important earthworks, some of which are probably Roman. At or near the village of Sandy is supposed to have been the British or Roman town called Salenai by Ptolemy, and Salinæ by an anonymous geographer of Ravenna. A large camp, once probably a British fortress, popularly called Cæsar's Camp, crowns the top of the hill which overlooks the railway station at Sandy. Another camp, of rectangular form, is on a hill about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the S.E., and goes by the name of the Roman Camp. At Howbury, half-way between Bedford and Great Barford, on a hill above the river, there is an earthwork of circular form, which is probably of British origin. There is also a circular enclosure on the heath near Leighton Buzzard. There are earthworks W. of Biggleswade near the Ivel, which go by the name of the Danish Camp.

The authentic history of Bedfordshire opens in 571, when Cuthwulph took Bedicanford, *i.e.* Bedford, and pursued the Britons through the S.W. of the county. Later on Bedfordshire became an important part of the kingdom of Mercia, for Offa, king of Mercia, was buried at Bedford in 784. In the 10th century Bedfordshire was the scene of much of the contest between the Saxons and the Danish invaders, chiefly in the neighbourhood of

Bedford and Tempsford. The invaders occupied a strong position at the latter place in 921, and made it the base of operations for an attack on Bedford. The attack was repulsed, and Tempsford was taken by King Edward, but 90 years later the Danes entered the county from the W., and Bedford was captured and partially destroyed.

It is supposed that all the baronial castles of any note were destroyed in the time of John and Henry III. We have a full description in the Chronicle of Dunstable of the destruction of Bedford Castle in the reign of the latter king. As there were therefore no castles either to capture or defend, Bedfordshire played no part in the Wars of the Roses. The sites of many of the castles can be easily traced. The county was the scene of a few skirmishes in and about Bedford during the civil war between Charles I. and the Parliament, and it was at the time a centre of Puritan influence.

Bedfordshire possessed several monastic establishments. There were six greater monasteries—that is, establishments possessing a yearly value of more than £200—at the time of the dissolution. These were Elstow Abbey, near Bedford; Dunstable Priory; Warden or De Sartis Abbey, about 8 m. S. of Bedford; Woburn Abbey, to the W.; Chicksands Priory, near Warden; and Newenham Priory, close to Bedford. There are slight remains of these establishments at Warden, and Chicksands, but at Elstow and Dunstable the Trans. and Nor. naves of the monastic churches still exist as parish churches. There were many minor establishments, priories, nunneries, hospitals, and endowed chapels and chantries, in the county, which have disappeared, leaving but slight traces behind them.

Among the parochial churches of Bedfordshire there are good examples of Saxon work at Stevington in the N., and in the tower of Clapham, and some slight remains of the same style in the tower of St. Peter's, Bedford. Nor. work is found in all parts of the county, as well as at Dunstable, especially in the N. at Poddington, Thurlough, Knotting, and Pertenhall. Felmersham in the N. and Eaton Bray in the S. are good examples of Early Eng. work. Wymington in the extreme N. is a very unique specimen of Dec. architecture. Leighton Buzzard and Luton are fine churches of later date. There is a great deal of valuable ecclesiastical wood-work in the

county, especially in the small unrestored churches in the N.E.

Manufactures.

Hand-made point pillow lace has been for many years a well-known production of Bedfordshire. It is made by the women in the cottages of the villages round Bedford, which is the centre of the lace trade. The trade has suffered by the introduction of Nottingham machine-made lace, and the old point patterns have also been much superseded by Maltese designs. The lace is worked on a parchment pattern set with brass pins, which are moved as the work proceeds. The thread with which the lace is made is wound round numerous bobbins, which rattle merrily one against another under the nimble fingers of the worker as she rapidly twists the thread round the pins. The work is done on a large round pillow, which is supported on a three-legged stand. These lace pillows form an article of furniture in nearly every cottage in N. and Mid-Bedfordshire.

Luton is the centre of the straw-plat trade, and straw-platting is carried on in all the villages in the S. of the county. The plat is worked up into hats and bonnets in manufactories in the town. Straw-platters can wander about from house to house as they work, but the lace-makers have to stay at home with their pillows.

At Bedford are the important agricultural implement works of Messrs. Howard. Brick-making is carried on to a large extent in the clay-lands round Bedford and Arlesey.

Communication.

RAILWAYS.—Bedfordshire is well supplied with railways. The main line of the Midland runs N. and S. through the centre of the county, and the main line of the Great Northern runs N. and S. through the E. part. The Bletchley and Cambridge branch of the London and North-Western Railway runs E. and W. through the centre of the county at Bedford. There are branches of the Midland which connect Bedford with Northampton and Hitchin, and another branch is projected from Bedford through the N.E. district to Kimbolton. Branches

of the North-Western and Great Northern connect Dunstable with Leighton and Luton.

ROADS.—The Bedfordshire roads are all excellent, the main roads being metalled with Leicestershire granite. In the N. part of the county are some specimens, amongst the woods, of the old soft roads which formed the means of communication for our ancestors.

CYCLES.—Cyclists will find this county an excellent one for touring, as the roads are good, and free from long hills, especially in the neighbourhood of Bedford, where rounds of many miles may be taken without any necessity for dismounting. There are hotels connected with the "Tourists' Cycling Club" at Bedford, Hockliffe, and elsewhere. Bedford has also an Amateur Cycling Club of its own, and is a pleasant and easy day's run from London for the experienced rider. There are four or five cycle establishments in the town.

RIVERS.—Pleasure boats can be taken along the lower parts both of the Ouse and Ivel, but it will be necessary to haul the boats overland at the locks, which are now for the most part unfit to be used.

Books relating to the Topography, Archæology, and History of Bedfordshire.

MAGNA BRITANNIA: being a concise topographical account of the several counties of Great Britain. By the Rev. D. Lysons, and Samuel Lysons, Esq. Bedfordshire. 1806.

THE BEAUTIES OF ENGLAND AND WALES: or delineations topographical and descriptive of Bedfordshire. By J. Britton and E. W. Brayley. Part I. 1801.

A TOPOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD. By G. A. Cooke. 1836.

COLLECTIONS TOWARDS THE HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF BEDFORDSHIRE, containing the parishes of Puddington, Luton, and Dunstable, with plates. 1782.

AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE PARISHES OF WYMINGTON AND ODELL. By Oliver St. John Cooper. 1785 and 1787.

BIBLIOTHECA TOPOGRAPHICA BRITANNICA. By John Nichols. 1780.

PENNANT'S TOUR FROM CHESTER TO LONDON, 1782, contains an account of Dunstable, Woburn, Ampthill Park, Wrest, Luton, and a few other places.

A COLLECTION OF BEDFORDSHIRE ANTIQUITIES, HISTORICAL, GENEALOGICAL, AND TOPOGRAPHICAL. By Thomas Fisher. 1836. Engraved on one hundred and seventeen copper plates, many of which are coloured.

AN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF WOBURN ABBEY, with eleven engravings, forming a volume of Robinson's "Vitruvius Britannicus." 1833.

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF THE CHAPEL AT LUTON, illustrated with twenty engravings. By H. Shaw. 1830.

SELECT ILLUSTRATIONS, HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL, OF BEDFORDSHIRE, containing Bedford, Houghton, Ampthill, Luton, and Chicksands. By J. D. Parry. 1827.

COMPENDIUM OF THE ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE OF THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD. By S. Tymms. Forming Volume I. of the "Family Topographer." 1836.

AN HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT OF THE TOWN OF WOBURN, "its abbey, and its vicinity." 1818.

DUNNE'S ORIGINALS, "containing a sort of real, traditional, conjectural history of the antiquities of Dunstable and its vicinity." Five parts. 1821, 1822.

THE TOPOGRAPHER AND GENEALOGIST. By John Gough Nichols. Part I., 1842, contains a parochial list of sepulchral brasses, monumental sculpture, &c., in Bedfordshire.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL TOPOGRAPHY OF ENGLAND. Bedfordshire. 1848.

ETYMOLOGIES OF BEDFORDSHIRE. By W. Monkhouse. 1857.

THE HUNDRED OF WILLEY. By H. Harvey. 1880.

BEDFORD AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD. By D. Carey Elwes. 1881.

A DIGEST OF THE DOMESDAY OF BEDFORDSHIRE. By William Airy. 1881.

ROUTES.

The various lines of railway in Bedfordshire form excellent routes for tourists, as follows:—

I. Main line of the Midland. Stations.—LUTON, LEA-GRAVE, HARLINGTON, FLITWICK, AMPHILL, BEDFORD, OAKLEY, SHAENBROOK.

II. Main line of the Great Northern. Stations.—THREE COUNTIES, ARLESEY, BIGGLESWADE, SANDY, TEMPSFORD.

III. Bletchley and Cambridge Branch of the London and North-Western. Stations.—WOBURN SANDS, RIDG-MOUNT, LIDLINGTON, MILLBROOK, BEDFORD (Route I.), BLUNHAM, SANDY (Route II.), POTTON.

IV. Bedford and Hitchin Branch of the Midland. Stations.—CARDINGTON, SOUTHILL, SHEFFORD, HENLOW.

V. Bedford and Northampton Branch of the Midland. Station.—TURVEY.

VI. Luton and Dunstable Branch of the Great Northern from Hatfield, and Leighton and Dunstable Branch of the London and North-Western. Stations.—LUTON (Route I.), DUNSTABLE, STANBRIDGE-FORD, LEIGHTON BUZZARD.

VII. By road from Bedford to Kimbolton in Huntingdonshire, through the N.E. part of the county. A railway is projected for this part of Bedfordshire, and the country has been surveyed for the purpose. The proposed line is to be a branch of the Midland Railway.

ROUTE I.

Main Line of the Midland Railway.

The main line of the Midland Railway from *St. Pancras Terminus* enters Bedfordshire about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Chiltern Green station, the nearest station for Luton Hoo, a fine park, through which runs the river Lea, and in which is situated a large mansion. The railway skirts the E. side of the park, and in $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. reaches

LUTON STATION.

Most fast trains stop here. St. Pancras Terminus is 31 m., $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. The *Great Northern Station* on the Hatfield and Dunstable branch is on the other side of the station yard; and is connected with the Midland station by a foot-bridge. Omnibus and flies.

LUTON (the town on the Lea or Luye. Pop. in 1881, 23,959. Hotel: *The George*) is a bustling populous town on the river Lea, here only a brook, and is pleasantly situated in a hollow of the Chiltern Hills, through which the river has cut its way. Luton is the centre of the straw-plat trade, and has greatly increased in size during the last few years. In 1831 the pop. was only 3,961. In 1876 it was made a municipal borough. Most of the town is quite new, and of no particular interest. The principal public buildings are the Town Hall, the Corn Exchange, and the Plat Hall. The *Luton Moors*, E. of the town, have been formed into a *People's Park*. The cemetery is on the same side of the town. There is a Literary Institute and Reading-room in the Town Hall, and there are swimming and private baths.

Luton parish formerly contained the hamlets of *Leagrave* to the N. and *East and West Hyde* to the S. Two new districts, of *Christ Church* and *St. Matthew*, with modern churches, have been formed, and East Hyde has also been made into a separate parish.

The old parish ch. of *St. Mary* is one of the most important and interesting churches in the county. It stands on the S. side of the town, near the railway, and is seen on the l. as the train approaches from London. The tower, built in chequers, or squares, with flints, should be noticed. It is partly Dec., and partly Perp. Flints are often introduced into buildings in the chalk part of Bedfordshire. Inside the ch. there is much of interest to be seen. There is a remarkable baptistery chapel, in which the font is enclosed. There is a tradition that *Anne Boleyn* was baptised in this font, her great grandfather having lived at Luton Hoo. The chancel was built in the 15th century by John of Weatenhurst, Abbot of St. Albans. His motto, "Valles abundabunt," may be seen on the sedilia on the S., together with the arms of Edward the Confessor; of the Kingdom of Mercia, of

which Bedfordshire formed a part; of Offa, King of Mercia; of the Abbey of St. Alban; and of Abbot Weatenhurst himself. There are many remarkable tombs in the ch. In the S. aisle are the mutilated tombs of an ecclesiastic and of John Bettlesworth, chancellor of the diocese of London in 1779. In the N. transept is a brass of John Ackworth and his wife, 1573. There is also a chapel founded by Sir John Wenlock, who was created Baron Wenlock in 1461, but founded the chapel before he received the title. The arms of the families of Wenlock and Hoo appear upon the arches. Lord Wenlock himself was, however, buried in Tewkesbury Abbey, having fallen at the battle of Tewkesbury, 1471. Underneath the curious double arch of the chapel is the effigy of an ecclesiastic, supposed to be that of William de Wenlock, prebendary of Brownswood in St. Paul's Cathedral, and master of Fairleigh Hospital, near Luton, who was great-uncle of Lord Wenlock. The chapel also contains some altar tombs, stripped of their brasses, to members of the family of Rotherham, of Sommeries, 2 m. S.W. of Luton. Some members of the Crawley family of the 17th century are also buried here.

The visitor to Luton will not fail to take notice of the straw-plat trade, evidences of which meet him at every turn. The plat is made up, in numerous manufactories, by workmen called "blockers," into hats and bonnets. In the Plat Hall the country people assemble with their bundles of plat on their arms, waiting for the dealers and manufacturers. Both in Luton itself and in all the villages round the women and girls may be seen with their rolls of plat in their hands, and their bundles of pressed straws under their arms, gadding about from cottage to cottage, gossiping and chattering, their tongues moving as fast as their fingers. There seems to be no particular reason why straw-platting should flourish at Luton; and it is as difficult to account for the settlement of the straw-plat business in South Bedfordshire as it is to explain why shoe-making is carried on in Northamptonshire. Clever imitations of Bedfordshire straw-plat are now made in China at a very low price.

By the time the traveller has watched the straw-platters, and visited St. Mary's Church, he will probably be glad to get out of Luton. If he passes into the country S. of the town, he will soon find himself among the

Chiltern Hills, and there are many interesting places within an easy walk. Just here the counties of Bedford and Hertford overlap in the manner of interlaced fingers, each finger being a separate parish, and the largest of these strips is occupied by the parish of Luton.

Luton Hoo, an extensive and picturesque park, lies due S. of the town. The river Lea is here dammed up so as to form a small lake. There is a large mansion, mainly built by the Marquis of Bute at the end of the last century, though a portion dates from the 17th century or earlier. It takes its name from the family of Hoo, who were here from very early times until 1447. The heiress of the Hoos married Sir Geoffrey Boleyn, Lord Mayor of London in 1460, and his great grand-daughter Anne Boleyn is said to have been born here. The chapel at the Hoo is fitted with 16th-century carvings, which were placed there when the Napiers were the owners.

If we leave the park at the S.E. corner, and, crossing the Lea, ascend the hills on the E. side, we shall reach *Sommeries* or *Sumeries*, now a farm house, but formerly the mansion of the Rotherhams, and built by Sir John Rotherham in the 17th century. The existing remains consist only of the red-brick gate-house. From *Sommeries* we may return direct to Luton, having made a round of five or six miles.

If we turn the other way in the Hoo Park, we come to Stockwood Park, about 1 m. beyond which to the W. is the village of CADDINGTON. The ch. (*All Saints*) has some E. English work about it.

We may continue our walk beyond Caddington over the downs to Dunstable, and if we please can return by train. After leaving Caddington we enter Hertfordshire, and in 1 m. reach the old *Watling Street*, which here forms the high-road running across the downs. Turning to the r. when we get to this road, we reach 2 m. Dunstable (page 82).

Those who are interested in ancient earth-works will find some good examples not far from the town. 3 m. along the high-road to the N. are old works known as *Dray's Ditches*, situated beneath *Warden Hill* and *Gully Hill*. These may be visited, together with the rectangular camp called *Waulud's Bank*, at Legrave, 1½ m. further, and the tourist may return by train from Legrave station.

Proceeding from the Midland station at Luton by

train northwards, we reach $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. Legrave station, with the earthworks, *Waulud's Bank*, a few yards N. of the station and E. of the railway. $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. further we leave the chalk country and reach

HARLINGTON STATION.

HARLINGTON contains *Harlington House*, formerly the property of the *Wyngates*. 1 m. N. of Harlington is Samsell, where, on November 12th, 1660, *John Bunyan*, when preaching in a cottage, was arrested on a warrant issued by Francis Wyngate. He was brought before the latter at Harlington House, and by him committed to the county gaol at Bedford. This was the beginning of his first imprisonment. Charles II. visited Harlington House. In the roof is a curious hiding-place, but the house has been much altered since the 17th century. Harlington ch. (*St. Mary*) is close to the station. It is chiefly Perp.

From Harlington we may visit SUNDON, which we passed on the railway 2 m. to the S. In the ch. (*St. Mary*) are tombs of the Cheyne family, who were here at the beginning of the last century. There are stone seats round part of the aisles. The chancel chest and the lock of the S. door should both be noticed as good specimens of Dec. work.

E. of Sundon is *Great Bramingham House*. 1 m. N. is STREATLEY, the lea or meadow on the *via strata*, called the *Ickneild way*, which passes through the parish. The ch. (*St. Margaret*) has some good open seats, and an E. Eng. font.

We are now on high ground overlooking the clay land to the N., and the next village, BARTON-LE-CLAY, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of Streatley, is said to take its name from its position above the clay. Barton is situated just under a steep spur of the Chilterns. Immediately above the village is *Wanting Hill*, and a little S. of this is *Ravensborough Castle*, a large ancient camp on the Hertfordshire border. There is an extensive view to the N., over Mid-Bedfordshire, from these spurs of the Chilterns. In the tower of Barton ch. (*St. Nicholas*) the local peculiarity of chequered flint work may be observed. The archæologist will find many points of interest about this ch., which was carefully restored in 1879. The roof of the nave, constructed of

chestnut, with carved eagles and angels on the brackets, is particularly fine. There is a small half-length brass of late 14th or early 15th-century date to Richard Bray, a rector, and another to Philip de Lee, a rector of the next century. The Vicarage House on the S. of the ch., with its long low windows of many lights, is interesting. It is apparently of 17th-century date. There is a small museum in the village. Barton may be reached from Luton (5 m.) by a road passing through a deep cutting in the chalk.

A visit should be paid to TODDINGTON, which is situated 2 m. W. from Harlington station. Toddington was once a market town, and has a fine cruciform church, conspicuously placed on a hill. The name is possibly derived from *Tot-in-dun*, the mound or hill on the downs, and there is on the E. side of the village a round-shaped mound, known as the *Congar Hill*. The ch. (*St. George*) is large and handsome. In the S. transept are 16th-century monuments of the Cheyneys, the remains of whose mansion are near the ch., and of the Peyvres, one of them that of a crusader. Sir Paulinus Peyvre, steward to Henry III., built the mansion, where afterwards *Henrietta, Baroness Wentworth* in her own right, shared her life with the unfortunate *Duke of Monmouth*, the illegitimate son of Charles II., and the victim of an ill-planned rebellion. The Baroness died of a broken heart a few months after the execution of the Duke, which took place on July 15th, 1685. She is buried in this ch., and her monument, together with those of other members of her family, is in the N. transept.

"Yet a few months, and the quiet village of Toddington, in Bedfordshire, witnessed a still sadder funeral. Near that village stood an ancient and stately hall, the seat of the Wentworths. The transept of the parish church had long been their burial place. To that burial place, in the spring which followed the death of Monmouth, was borne the coffin of the young Baroness Wentworth of Nettlestede. Her family reared a sumptuous mausoleum over her remains: but a less costly memorial of her was long contemplated with far deeper interest. Her name, carved by the hand of him whom she loved too well, was, a few years ago, still discernible on a tree in the adjoining park."—*Macaulay, Hist. of England*, ch. v.

On the N. side of the chancel is a vestry with a stone altar, a fire-place, and lockers. Over it are two rooms.

In the N. aisle and transept are cornices with carved figures of animals.

1 m. S. of Toddington is CHALGRAVE. The ch. (*All Saints*) contains two altar tombs with effigies of knights, but is now almost a ruin.

The character of the scenery changes as we leave Harlington station. We are in the midst of well-wooded enclosures, and the line of the Ampthill Hills is in front of us to the N. 3 m. N. of Harlington we reach

FLITWICK STATION.

FLITWICK.—The ch. (*St. Peter & St. Paul*) has a Nor. doorway and font, the former with the beaked-head and billet ornament. Near the ch. is *Flitwick Manor*, which has a good arboretum in the grounds. At Rokesac on the E. side of the village, now called Ruxox, there was a priory of canons and a chapel of St. Nicholas.

To the S. $1\frac{1}{2}$ m., near the railway, is WESTONING. The ch. (*St. Mary Magdalene*) is a fine Perp. ch., with lofty side aisles. The rectory and advowson once belonged to the Knights Templars, who had a good deal of property in Bedfordshire, and afterwards to Elstow Abbey, an important religious house near Bedford, which also possessed many rectories in the county. Close to the ch. is *Westoning Manor*, and 1 m. W. are *Tingrith House* and TINGRITH village. About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.W. is STEPPINGLEY, where there is a fine ch. nearly rebuilt, and in good style. The font is remarkable, with coats-of-arms, and emblems of the Passion on the panels.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of Flitwick station is PULLOXHILL, where an attempt was made some years ago to mine for gold. The works are now abandoned. The ch. (*St. James*) was rebuilt in 1846.

There is not much to see in the neighbourhood of Flitwick, and the tourist will probably proceed, without stopping there, to

AMPTHILL STATION.

AMPTHILL (omnibus to the town, $\frac{3}{4}$ m.; hotels: *King's Arms*, *Rose and Crown*, *Queen's Head*) is a small market town (pop. 2,257), standing picturesquely among wooded hills, at the borders of Ampthill and Houghton Parks. Ampthill is $7\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Bedford, and makes a capital centre

for visiting many interesting places. The town is rather quaint-looking, and contains several good old-fashioned houses. The obelisk and pump in the centre were erected by the Earl of Ossory in 1785. In Little Park are almshouses, founded 1690 by Dr. Cross. On the Woburn road is the entrance gate to an avenue of limes, called "The Alameda," planted by Lady Holland, who resided at Ampthill Park.

The ch. (*St. Andrew*) has in it a monument to Robert Nicholls, governor of Long Island, which contains the cannon-ball by which he was killed. The remains of the churchyard cross, with its sculpture, are in the vestry.

The neighbourhood is rich in historical surroundings. Leland tells us that Sir John Cornwall, one of the English leaders at the battle of Agincourt, "builded the castelle of Antehill of such spoils as it is said he won in France." He was created Lord Fanhope in 1432, and Baron of Millbrook in 1443. He died at Ampthill Castle in 1443. Ampthill Park, now the property of the Duke of Bedford, is very picturesque, and splendid views may be obtained from the higher ground. Indeed, no one visiting this part of the county can talk of "flat Bedfordshire." The oaks in the park are of enormous growth, and very plentiful. They were surveyed by Parliamentary commissioners in 1653, and happily the older ones, to the number of two hundred and eighty-seven, were considered unfit for the use of the navy, and allowed to stand. The present mansion was built in 1694 by Lord Ashburnham, and commands extensive views over the vale of Bedford. In the older mansion, which Leland describes as "standing stately on a hill," Queen Katharine of Aragon was residing while the question of her divorce was being tried at Dunstable. It stood some way above the present house, and its site is marked by a Gothic cross erected in 1770 by the Earl of Ossory, the then owner of the park. It bears the arms of Aragon, and the following inscription by Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford :

In days of old, here Ampthill's towers were seen,
The mournful refuge of an injured queen.
Here flowed her pure and unavailing tears,
Here blinded zeal sustained her sinking years.
Yet freedom hence her radiant banner wav'd,
And love avenged a realm by priests enslaved.
From Katharine's wrong a nation's bliss was spread,
And Luther's light from Henry's lawless bed.

Beyond the park to the W., a short walk brings us to the beautifully situated village of Millbrook (page 68).

The road from Ampthill to Bedford skirts, as it descends the hill, on the l., Ampthill Park, and, on the r., *Houghton Park*, otherwise known as Dame Ellensbury Park.

Houghton House was once a magnificent mansion, though now in ruins. It was built by Mary, Countess of Pembroke,

Sydney's sister, Pembroke's mother,

who held the park under the Crown during her widowhood. Charles II. constituted the park a royal domain, and conferred on the annexed estates the name of "The Honour of Ampthill." The district still appoints its own coroner, as distinct from the holder of the similar office for the county. The house occupies a magnificent position on the northern slope of the hill. It was in part built under the direction of Inigo Jones. On the frieze of the W. front, dated 1604, are the *porcupine* of the *Sydneys*, and the *bear and ragged staff* of the *Dudleys*. The house was probably finished by Philip, Earl of Montgomery, second son of the Countess of Pembroke. It passed from the Earls of Pembroke to the family of Bruce in 1630, and in 1738 it became the property of the Russells, Dukes of Bedford, by whom it was dismantled in 1794. It is said that under a pear-tree at the entrance to the park Sir Philip Sydney wrote part of his "Arcadia." This is, however, hardly probable, as his sister, the Countess of Pembroke, did not become possessed of Houghton until after his death. There is a similar tradition with regard to a tree in Wilton Park, Wilts.

The village of HOUGHTON CONQUEST (the town in the holt or wood) lies under the park, about 1 m. to the N. There is a fine ch. (*All Saints*), partly Dec. and partly Perp. There is a locker in the E. wall, which is in an unusual place, and was probably for relics. There are some good open seats, and a richly-painted rood screen. There are some interesting frescoes discovered at the restoration of the ch. in 1870. Over the chancel arch is a figure of the Saviour, over the N. door is a figure of St. Christopher, ten feet high, and in the S. aisle are representations of St. George and the dragon. In the chancel are brasses of the *Conquest* family, from whom the village received its second name. The site of their mansion is under the hills about 1 m. from the ch. James I. visited

Sir Edmund Conquest here in 1605. The Conquests became extinct at the end of the 17th century. There is also in the ch. a monument to *Thomas Archer*, rector, who died in 1631, representing him in his pulpit. He was chaplain to James I., and preached before the king, in the county, at Haynes in 1605, at Toddington in 1608, and at Bletsoe in 1612. He left various historical notes inserted in the parish register. There is a monument to another rector, Dr. Zachary Grey, editor of *Hudibras*, who died in 1766. There is also a modern brass to the memory of Archdeacon Rose, who died in 1873, and in whose time the ch. was restored by Sir Gilbert Scott.

1 m. E. of Houghton Conquest is HAYNES or *Hawnes*. *Haynes Park* contains a large mansion, which was modernised and partly rebuilt by Lord Carteret at the end of the last century. It contains some good china and tapestry, and several valuable family portraits of the Thynnes. Amongst the portraits is one of the Countess of Desmond, taken at the age of ninety. She is said to have

Lived to the age of a hundred and ten,
And died of a fall from a cherry tree then.

A more precious heirloom in the Thynne family, which is preserved here, is a ring said with great probability to be the identical one given by Elizabeth to the Earl of Essex, and sent to the Queen by the Earl just before his execution, though it failed to reach her. "It is a sardonyx ring with a cameo head of Elizabeth. It has descended from Lady Frances Devereux, the daughter of Essex, in unbroken succession from mother to daughter, to the present possessors. The ring is gold, the sides are engraved, and the inside is of blue enamel."

The gardens of Haynes Park are extensive and well laid out. The village of Haynes lies to the S. of the park. The ch. (*St. Mary*) contains monuments to some of the Osborne family, of Chicksands Priory, in the next parish, and to Anthony Newdigate, one of the commissioners for the sale of abbey lands, who died 1568.

N. of the park is the village of WILSHAMPSTEAD, commonly called WILSTEAD. The ch. (*All Saints*) has a chan-
cel. There is a 15th century brass to William
Fk, Chaplain of Elstow Abbey, and there are
And also the Edwardes family.

There are interesting excursions E. of Ampthill to Wrest Park, the seat of Earl Cowper, and the neighbouring villages. Leaving Ampthill at the E. end of the town, we first reach $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.—

MAULDEN.—The ch. (*St. Mary*) stands on an eminence above the village. It contains two late brasses of the Waldo family, and in a mausoleum a curious figure, 1656, of Diana Lady Elgin, rising from an oval sarcophagus, commonly called “the lady in the punch-bowl.”

We can either turn r. in Maulden and reach Wrest in 2 m., or we may keep straight on to CLOPHILL, where we have an old parish ch. on a hill away from the village, the site of a priory, and the remains of a mediæval castle. Clophill old ch. (*St. Mary*) has a fine massive tower, and there is a beautiful view from the churchyard. It is now only a mortuary chapel, and there is a modern ch. in the village which is used for services. About 1 m. E. of Clophill and beyond the turn to the old ch., where the road makes a bend to the r., is *Beadlow Farm*, a corruption of *Beaulieu*, and the site of a priory which was a cell to St. Alban's Abbey. Nothing, however, remains above ground, though the foundations of buildings have been discovered below the surface.

On the opposite side, of the river Ivel, which is here little more than a brook, is *Cainhoe Castle*, occupying a commanding position above the river. It belonged to a younger branch of the family of Albini, and afterwards, through an heiress, to the St. Amands, in the 13th and 14th centuries. The site of the castle is a large picturesque wooded mound, but there are no remains standing above ground.

WREST may be reached from Cainhoe $\frac{1}{2}$ m., or we may turn S. at Clophill through the breach in the hill from which the village takes its name, “the cleft hill,” and in $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. reach the village of SILSOE, and the main entrance to Wrest Park.

“The Greys of Ruthen, afterwards Earls and Dukes of Kent, were at Wrest before 1324. The estates passed through the Lucas family by female descent to the Cowpers, who now hold them. The house in its present state retains little appearance of antiquity, having been altered and modernised at various times. It contains a great number of portraits, forming nearly a series, of the noble family of Grey, from Henry, Earl of Kent, one of the peers

who sat at the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots, down to the present time. Among them are Elizabeth, Countess of Kent, who, residing at Wrest in her widowhood, there patronised Butler the poet, and frequently entertained the learned Sheldon; Anthony Grey, Rector of Burbach, who succeeded in 1639 to the title on the death of Henry, Earl of Kent, husband of the above-named lady; Lady Susanna Grey, daughter of Charles, Earl of Kent, who carried the barony of Grey of Ruthen to the Longuevilles, and who is buried at Blunham (page 67); Henry, Earl of Kent, who died in 1651, and Amabel, his countess, commonly called 'the good countess'; Anthony, Earl of Kent, and his lady, the sole heiress of John, Lord Lucas, in their robes, by Sir Peter Lely."—*Lysons*. There are portraits of Sir Randolph Crew, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench; Thomas, Lord Crew, by Sir Peter Lely; Nathaniel, Lord Crew, Bishop of Durham, who has left his name both at Bamborough and Oxford; Sir Charles Lucas; and Lord Chancellor Hardwick. The gardens were improved by "Capability Brown," who also made the ornamental water. This is supplied by a spring, where there is a bath-house, designed as a Roman temple by Sir William Chambers. The Duke of Kent built at the end of the avenue leading from the house a banqueting-room, "where he spent many convivial hours with some of the great statesmen who were his contemporaries, after partaking of his favourite game in the adjoining bowling-green."—*Lysons*. Between the house and the village of Silsoe is a lofty obelisk. Silsoe was formerly a chapelry of Flitton, and the ch. is quite modern.

FLITTON (the town on the fleet or stream) is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Wrest, and the ch. (*St. John Baptist*) contains the burial-places of the Greys. The ch. itself was probably built by Reginald, Lord Grey, Lord High Admiral of England, subsequent to the year 1410, for in that year the court of chivalry adjudged him the right of bearing the arms of Hastings, which, together with those of Grey, are carved on the outside of the S. porch. The burial chamber on the N. of the ch. was built by Henry, Earl of Kent, in 1605, and three other burial chambers to the E. were added by Henry, Duke of Kent, at the beginning of the 18th century. In these chambers are several fine specimens of monumental effigies of various dates, from that of Henry, Earl of Kent, the founder, who died

in 1614, to that of Thomas, Lord de Grey, who completed Wrest House, and died in 1859. The bodies are buried in vaults underneath, and the portraits of many of the deceased are in Wrest House. In the ch. itself are some ancient brasses, and within the altar rails is a slab to Thomas Hill, "Receiver-General to three worthy Earls of Kent, Reginald, Henry, and Charles. He departed this life April the 2nd, 1628, aged one hundred and one years."

From Amphill to Maulden, Clophill, Cainhoe Castle, Wrest, and Flitton is an agreeable round of 10 or 11 m.

Taking the train again from Amphill Station, we pass under the hills through a tunnel, and, skirting Amphill Park, with a good view of the house, find ourselves in the Bedford valley, through which the line runs past r. the County School, founded by a company of shareholders in 1869 for three hundred boarders, and l. the barracks, until, after crossing the Ouse, it reaches 7½ m.—

BEDFORD STATION,

at which almost all trains stop, and which is distant from St. Pancras terminus sixty-four minutes by the best trains. This is the junction for the *Northampton and Hitchin Branches*. The London and North-Western Railway Station is on the other side of the town, but passengers are taken across in the omnibus, and transferred at the *George* or *Swan*—fare sixpence; cab, two shillings.

BEDFORD (Bedicanford, i.e. the ford defended by earth-works: pop. about 23,000; hotels: *Swan*, on the river, close to the bridge, with a large garden containing the old castle keep; *Howkin's Private Hotel*, near the Midland Station; *George* and *Red Lion*, both in the High Street) has largely increased in late years. Its well-known school brings a number of residents of the upper classes, who remain for a few years for the education of their children. There is consequently plenty of society in addition to the usual professional society of a county town. Bedford is also a Brigade Dépôt, Sub-district No. 33, for the counties of Bedford, Huntingdon, and Hertford. The barracks are on the Kempston road, about 1 m. from the town. They will accommodate about 300 men and some thousands of stands of arms. There is also a detached hospital. The barracks are occupied by a portion of the "Bedfordshire Regiment" and the permanent staff of the county militia.

The town of Bedford is situated on both banks of the Ouse, the larger portion being on the N. side. There are two bridges across the river. The old-fashioned one at the bottom of the High Street was built in 1813, and took the place of an older one of seven arches, which perhaps dated from the 13th century, and on which stood the gate-house, used as a borough prison, in which John Bunyan was perhaps confined during his last imprisonment. The new bridge, opened in 1883, is near the Midland Station. The older portion of the town is built in the form of a double cross, one-half being N. and the other S. of the river.

Bedford is a borough by prescription. Its first charter on record was granted by Henry II., and its last, after surrender, by Charles II. It returned two members to Parliament from 1295 to 1886, but now returns one only. The borough comprises the following parishes:—St. Cuthbert, St. Peter, and St. Paul, N. of the river, and St. Mary and St. John S. of the river. Besides these five parishes, two new ecclesiastical districts, Holy Trinity and St. Martin, have been formed out of St. Paul's and St. Peter's parishes. There is a Roman Catholic chapel in the Midland Road, and there are several other places of worship, of which the principal is the "Bunyan Meeting," built in 1850, and standing on the site of the original meeting, of which Bunyan, after his release from prison in 1672, was the pastor for sixteen years. The bronze doors, with tablets representing scenes from the "Pilgrim's Progress," were the gift of the Duke of Bedford. In the vestry are preserved Bunyan's chair, the door of the gaol, and other memorials of "The Dreamer."

On St. Peter's Green at the top of the High Street is a statue of John Bunyan, also the gift of the Duke of Bedford, and erected in 1873. It is the work of Mr. Boehm, A.R.A., and was cast in bronze from cannon and bells brought from China. The likeness is taken from a contemporary portrait by Sadler, and the costume is that of the period. "The attitude is that of the earnest preacher, holding the open Bible in his left hand, with the fingers of the right hand resting upon it. The face looks up with a very earnest expression. At his feet have fallen the symbols of the prison. Around the pedestal are placed three bronze reliefs illustrating episodes in the 'Pilgrim's Progress.' On the front is a representation of the conflict of Christian and Apollyon; on the right are the three 'Shin-

ing Ones,' pointing out to Christian the Celestial City; and the left illustration is that of Evangelist directing Christian to the wicket gate. At the back of the pedestal is the following inscription, being an appropriate adaptation of a scene in Interpreter's house, taken from the earlier part of the book, when the picture of a grave person was shown to Christian. 'It had eyes lifted up to Heaven, the best of books in his hand, the law of truth was written upon his lips. . . . It stood as if it pleaded with men.' On the bronze tablet beneath the figure is a bold copy of the autograph, 'John Bunyan.'"

The Howard Chapel, erected in 1774, is named after the philanthropist, John Howard, of Cardington, near Bedford, who was one of its founders. The Moravians have had a meeting-house and school in Bedford since 1745.

At the Bedford Rooms is located *The Bedford Literary and Scientific Institute and General Library*. This library was formed at the beginning of the last century by contributions, chiefly of sermons and theological works, from the neighbouring clergy and others, and after being kept in various places, as in St. John's ch., and in a room over the vestry of St. Paul's, was amalgamated with a more modern library and placed in the Bedford Rooms. There is also a news-room connected with the society in the same building, and lectures are occasionally given. There are in the library a few specimens of 16th century missals and other service books. The librarian is Mr. W. Davis. Strangers can be introduced to the news-room by members.

A room in the same building is occupied by *The Bedfordshire Archæological and Natural History Society*. This society meets once a month in the winter. It possesses a small collection of local and other antiquities and natural history specimens, together with a small archæological and architectural library. A county archæological society was formed in 1847, and a natural history society in 1875, and the two were amalgamated in 1887. The deputy curator is Mr. W. Davis.

Opposite the Bedford Rooms are the *Harpur Modern and Elementary Schools*, and the offices of the governing body of the Harpur Trust, erected in 1880. There are also elementary schools in other parts of the town belonging to the same body, and in consequence there are no

board or voluntary schools in Bedford, with the exception of two voluntary infant schools.

W. of St. Paul's ch. is the *Harpur Grammar School*, erected in 1776. Over the principal door is the statue of Sir William Harpur, the founder. Behind the school buildings are the head-master's house, and the play-ground running down to the river, with the gymnasium on the left-hand side. The Bedford School is one of the sixteen grammar schools licensed by letters patent of Edward VI. in 1552. It was endowed in 1566 by Sir William Harpur, a native of Bedford, and a successful merchant and Lord Mayor of London, with land in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, which has greatly increased in value. The fees in the grammar school are from nine to twelve pounds a year, according to age. Day boys must reside with their parents, grand-parents, or guardians, or under certain restrictions with their uncles or aunts. Some of the masters have boarding-houses. *The Modern School* is part of the same trust, and the fees are less.

New buildings, in Jacobean style, were erected in the N. part of the town in 1882 for *The Girls' High and Modern Schools*, which correspond to the boys' Grammar and Modern Schools respectively.

The Harpur Trust also possesses almshouses in Dame Alice Street, and there are endowments for marriage portions for poor girls and other purposes.

On the S. side of St. Paul's are the *New Law Courts*, opened in 1882. They are from the designs of Mr. Waterhouse, and occupy the whole space between St. Paul's Square and the river. The grand jury room, overlooking the river, contains some portraits of former worthies of the county.

On the other side of the ch. is the *New Corn Exchange* erected in 1867, and used for a corn-market on Saturdays, and for public meetings, concerts, and entertainments at other times. The old Corn Exchange on the other side of the road is now chiefly used for auction sales.

There is a Working Men's Institute in Upper Harpur Street, founded in 1855. It contains a library of 3,000 volumes.

The county gaol, built in the early part of this century, is next to the Girls' High School. The old county gaol, in which John Bunyan was first imprisoned, stood at the northern cross of the town, at the corner of Silver Street.

The River.

The Ouse is the great attraction of Bedford, and there is a fine piece of water below the bridge, on the N. side of which is a handsome embankment on which stands, in front of the old castle mound, *The Town and County Club*. Boats can be hired at Chetham's boat-yard, on the N. bank of the river, between the bridges, where there is also a ferry to the grounds of the *Lawn Tennis Club*; at Goatley's boat-yard, on the S. bank, just below the old bridge; and at the E. end of the embankment promenade.

There are a grammar school, modern school, and town boat clubs; and regattas are held every summer. The usual course is from near Newenham Mill, about 1 m. below the bridge, to Chetham's boat-yard. Bedford has been famous of late years for its evening river fêtes and illuminations.

There is a *Public Bathing Place* near the new bridge, which is reserved for ladies from eleven to one o'clock.

There is an *Angling Club*. The keeper is Mr. Rouse, Spring Gardens.

The Churches.

Four of the chs. of Bedford are ancient, and some of them possess many features of interest. St. Cuthbert's and Holy Trinity are both modern buildings, though St. Cuthbert's, which is built in a quasi-Nor. style, stands on the site of an older ch. Another modern ch., St. Martin's, is also in course of erection.

St. Paul's.—A collegiate ch. of St. Paul existed in Bedford in Saxon times, for canons of St. Paul's are mentioned in Domesday Book. At the end of the 12th century the college, which was one of Augustinian canons, was, on account of a dispute with the towns-people, in which a butcher had been killed by the servants of the canons, removed to Newenham Priory E. of the town. Newenham was founded by Simon de Beauchamp and Roisia his mother. Simon was buried in the chancel of St. Paul's in 1208. His brass, "an engrailed cross," the earliest known English brass, existed in Leland's time. The slab over the grave, with the indent of the cross, is still in the chancel.

A Nor. ch. had been built in the place of the Saxon one, but was almost destroyed in 1216, when Fulke de Breauté pulled it down that he might use the material for the repairs of the castle. The church was in ruins for about ten years, when Henry III. granted some of the materials of the castle, which he had dismantled, to the canons of Newenham, who set to work to rebuild St. Paul's. The E. Eng. ch. then erected appears to have been built on the lines of the Nor. ch., for Nor. foundations were discovered a few years ago when the tower was rebuilt. The ch. has been much altered since that time, especially within the last few years. In 1867 the E. Eng. tower and steeple were taken down and rebuilt on arches of greater width. This threw the chancel open to the nave, a great improvement, as it had been hitherto blocked off by the narrow tower arches. A few years afterwards the roof of the chancel was raised, and other alterations were made in that part of the ch. Lastly, in 1884, a new N. aisle was added.

The S. aisle to the chancel, called the "Archdeacon's Court," was the chapel of the Guild of the Holy Trinity. The stone pulpit in the N.E. angle of this chapel is of the 15th century, and is the one from which John Wesley preached his sermon on "The great assize." On the S. side of the chapel is a cenotaph with the brasses of Sir William Harpur, the founder of the Grammar School, who died in 1573, and Dame Margaret, his second wife. The brasses have been removed from the original slab, which is on the floor. The E. window in the chapel is a memorial to Sir Richard Gilpin, for many years Colonel of the Bedfordshire Militia. It was presented by the officers of the regiment in 1885. The subject is the conversion of St. Paul. The colours on each side of the window are those of the Militia. Those in the N. transept belonged to the first battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment.

In the chancel are oak stalls *returned* at the W. end. The E. window in the chancel is the "Harpur memorial window," erected in 1886. The subjects surrounding the central picture of our Lord among the doctors of the law represent scenes in the history of the sons of the prophets. "The font is octagonal, of good Dec. work; its stem ornamented with small shafts, and a row of ball-flowers and roses."—*H. A.* In the sacristan's room over the entry are preserved the records of the Archdeacon's Court. The

"old library" was also at one time kept here. A carillon machine playing fourteen tunes on two barrels was placed in the tower in 1879.

St. Peter's, St. Peter's Green.—This was originally an Anglo-Saxon ch., and was burnt by the Danes in 1010. The tower still bears the marks of fire on the N. side, and has also Saxon architectural features, namely long-and-short work, and an opening with a triangular-shaped head and square imposts. It was repaired by the Normans, but the chancel and nave remained in ruins until the beginning of the 13th century, when they were rebuilt in E. Eng. style, as may be seen in the chancel. The nave was enlarged and its old features destroyed in 1846. The W. window is a memorial to Colonel Burnaby, who fell at Abou Klea, in the Soudan, in 1885. The Nor. doorway on the S. was brought from the destroyed ch. of St. Peter Dunstable, which once stood on the other side of the river near St. Mary's.

St. Mary's, which is S. of the river, is an interesting ch. both architecturally and historically. "It presents Nor. and Anglo-Saxon work in the tower and S. transept. The nave was destroyed and rebuilt in 1841. The tower is of good Nor. character. It has on each side of the second stage a window of two narrow-arched openings divided by a shaft, the whole enclosed within a semi-circular arch. On each face of the upper stage are the outlines of two small Nor. lights of well-wrought ashlar, now closed, but between them Perp. windows of two lights have been inserted." "The masonry of the S. transept is of a mixed character, containing a quantity of green sandstone. A portion of it is of herring-bone workmanship." The chapel N. of the chancel of St. Mary's was a chantry of Cauldwell Priory which stood in the parish. After the destruction of the Priory it became a burial place, and contains many monuments. There are two 13th century coffin lids on the floor S. of the altar, and another of about the same date on the N., which was brought from the site of St. Leonard's Hospital. On the floor in the nave is a brass effigy of Robert Hawse, thrice mayor of the borough, dated 1627. On the S. wall of the chancel are brasses to *Dr. Giles Thorne*, his wife, and infant son. Dr. Thorne, Archdeacon of Bucks, and Vicar both of St. Mary's and St. Cuthbert's, was arrested in the latter ch. itself by the troopers of Lord St. John of Bletsoe Castle, a leader on

the Puritan side. He was carried off to the *Swan Inn*, without being allowed to see any of his family, and afterwards removed to London, where he was kept a prisoner in the Fleet. Three hundred of the inhabitants of St. Cuthbert's, which must at the time have had a very small population, petitioned for his release, but unsuccessfully, for he suffered a long imprisonment, though he lived to the Restoration. A petition had been presented before by certain of the inhabitants of St. Mary's, but it seems to have had reference chiefly to the appointment of the unsatisfactory curates who supplied the Archdeacon's duties while he was engaged elsewhere. This petition stated that 'Mr. Thorne, parson of St. Mary's, Bedford, some years since engrossed into his hands the rectory of St. Cuthbert over the head of the incumbent, who was then living, since which time he has taken the profits of both the benefices, but wilfully neglects the care of the parishioners' souls, having only one drunken curate to officiate in both churches. We pray that Mr. Thorne may be compelled to afford sufficient maintenance out of the profits of the rectory to Mr. Houlden, a godly and painful minister.' Until the middle of the 16th century there stood, a few yards W. of St. Mary's, in the space now called St. Mary's Square, the ch. of St. Peter Dunstable, so called because it belonged to Dunstable Priory. Each ch. was used alternately for parochial worship, until St. Peter's was pulled down in 1546, when the N. aisle of St. Mary's was built with part of the material, and the chancel at the same time repaired and extended.

St. John's, near the L. & N. W. R. station, was formerly the chapel of the *Hospital of St. John*, founded in 1280, but all traces of the hospital have disappeared except a few fragments of the Master's house built into the present rectory-house. "It was founded and endowed for a master, two priests, or brothers, who were to pray for the souls of the founder and three or four of the St. John family; and also for the reception and support of poor freemen of Bedford." The ch. has been much altered and added to, and has been twice restored within the last few years, the second time in consequence of a fire.

There was another hospital, close to St. John's, which has also disappeared. It was that of *St. Leonard*, founded about 1,300, for the sick, the paralysed, and lepers. Its site is now occupied by the L. and N. W. R. station, and

the stone coffin lid, which was probably that of one of the Masters of the hospital, mentioned as being now in St. Mary's ch., was discovered when the station was constructed.

The Britannia Ironworks, at the W. end of Cauldwell Street, occupy the site of *Cauldwell Priory*. Three stone coffins and a floor of encaustic tiles were discovered here in 1864.

All these religious houses are to the S. of the town. On the N. are the remains of the *Franciscan* or *Grey Friars Priory*. These remains consist of portions of two sides of the cloisters, and of the refectory. Leland is our chief authority for what we know of this Franciscan priory. In his Itinerary he writes: "Things notable in the Gray Freres of Bedford. The original founder of this house was Mabel de Pateshull, Lady of Bletsoe, where now Sir John St. John dwelleth. This Mabel was buried at the S. side of the high altar under an arch. The epitaph, 'Here lies Lady Mabilla Pateshulle, Lady of Blettesho, first foundress of this place.' She was buried under a flat stone. There was also buried on the N. side of the high altar, under a plain stone, one of the Lords Mowbray, and one Queen Elenor was buried right afore the high altar, under a flat stone of marble, with an image of plain stone encrowned. Richard Hastings, an esquire, chamberlain to Edward III., was buried on the N. side of the choir, under a low tomb. Sir Richard Irencester was buried in the middle of the body of the ch., and this Irencester, as it is said, made the body of the ch. of the Gray Freres. Blake St. John, of late time, was buried in the choir by Hastings. The Freres stand flat in the north-west of the town."

This Lady Mabel Patteshull was a sister of John de Grandison, the "magnificent" bishop of Exeter. She married Sir John de Patteshull in Northamptonshire, and also of Bletsoe in Bedfordshire, in the early part of the 14th century, and probably founded this priory, which is about 8 m. from Bletsoe, in 1310, at the time of her marriage. Leland notices that her epitaph speaks of her as the first foundress of the priory. This is probably stated to distinguish her foundation from the re-building or perhaps first building of the body of the ch. by Sir Richard Irencester, the epitaph having been added after that event. Irchester, from which Richard de Irencester

took his name, is not far from Bletsoe, and "Blake St. John, of late time" was also from Bletsoe. The John de Mowbray mentioned was probably one of the Mowbray family who succeeded the Beauchamps at Bedford Castle, and who were of kin to Mabel de Patteshull; and we have therefore all the names mentioned by Leland, with one exception, accounted for as belonging to families of the neighbourhood, mostly connected with the Patteshulls. The one exception is the name of "Queen Elenor." Who this queen was, and how she came to be buried at Bedford, cannot be discovered.

The only other ancient building in Bedford is the gateway of the *Old George Inn*, standing a little back, on the W. side of the High Street. The quaint old shops in the High Street close by are probably part of the same establishment.

Bedford Castle and its History.

A fortress or castle would appear to have existed at Bedford from very early times, as its Saxon name *Bedicanford* means the ford protected by earthworks. Bedford was in 572 captured from the Britons by Cuthwulph. It afterwards became part of the kingdom of Mercia, and Offa, king of Mercia, was, we are told by Matthew Paris, buried at Bedford, but his tomb was swept away by a flood, together with the chapel in which it was contained. At the Conquest the barony of Bedford was given to *Hugo de Beauchamp*, and that family remained connected with Bedford Castle throughout its history. The castle itself was built by Paganus de Beauchamp in the reign of William Rufus, and "as long as it stood," says Camden, "there was no storm of civil war which did not burst upon it." In 1137 it was held for Matilda by Milo de Beauchamp against King Stephen. Milo, when first called upon to surrender the castle, replied that he would serve the king in anything except giving up the castle, and that it would be necessary to expel him by force, as had been done in the time of Henry I. What was the reason of this expulsion we cannot learn. There was also a former capitulation, according to some authors the result of the resistance offered by the De Beauchamps to the marriage of their sister, by order of the king, to Hugh Pauper, Earl of

Leicester. With regard to the siege of 1137, it is said that Milo held the castle for Henry, son of King David of Scotland, which may mean that King David sent a garrison to assist in holding the castle for his niece Matilda. It is difficult to understand how Milo, if he had chosen the side of the Empress, could say that "he was willing to serve the king as his true knight." However, the end of the matter was that Milo had to surrender to Stephen, as he had only been able to gather in five weeks' provisions, and was starved out. The accounts of the siege tell us that the castle was a strong one materially. In 1224 the castle sustained another and a final siege, which resulted in its capture by assault, and its destruction, after an existence of only about one hundred and twenty years. The origin of this siege was as follows. William de Beauchamp, the then head of the family at Bedford, took part with the rebellious barons against King John in 1216. The king sent a favourite of his, by name Fulke de Breauté, a soldier of fortune, to demand the castle, and De Beauchamp surrendered to him after a few days. Fulke de Breauté was appointed governor, but in a few years' time assumed so independent a position that he was soon a terror to all the neighbourhood, and Bedford Castle became nothing but a freebooter's stronghold. At length De Breauté went so far as to send out an expedition under his brother against three of the king's justices who had caused writs to be issued against him from their court at Dunstable, and one of the judges was captured and carried off to Bedford Castle. This was more than the king, Henry III., could put up with, and with the sanction of his council assembled at Northampton, and with plenty of help from the Church, for Fulke had been a terrible enemy to ecclesiastics, he made full preparations for an attack on the castle, and proceeded to Bedford in person.

The *Dunstable Chronicle* gives a full and graphic account of this siege, by which we learn the methods of attacking a castle in those days, and also gain some idea of the shape and position of that of Bedford. Engines for throwing stones and darts were placed at each side of the castle, which seems to have run E. and W. along the l. bank of the Ouse. From two lofty wooden towers the crossbowmen shot down into the yards beneath, while miners, working under the protection of a machine called "the cat," undermined the walls and towers. The castle was

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taken by four assaults. At the first, the barbican or outside defence was taken. At the second, the outer bailey or first court was carried. At the third, the inner bailey or second court was captured. And then nothing remained but the keep, which stood on the great mound which we see near the river, behind the embankment. This was taken, after a large portion of it had been shattered by the efforts of the miners, sixty days after the commencement of the siege. The garrison were hanged, but Fulke himself, who had not been in the castle at the time, and had surrendered to the king, was banished the kingdom. After its capture the castle was destroyed by order of the king. This was a work of considerable difficulty, for the miners and other workmen had to remain at Bedford to carry it out. The *Chronicle* and other documents give us a full account of what was done. The walls were pulled half-down, and the moats were filled up. Inside the castle area William de Beauchamp was allowed to erect a mansion, but express directions were given that he was on no account to crenellate or fortify the walls. The latter have been traced in places where excavations have been made for building purposes, and we can gather that the castle area with its outer and inner baileys extended from somewhere near the front of the *Swan Hotel* to the Great Mound. The mansion which De Beauchamp built has disappeared as well as the castle itself. Indeed nothing remained but ruins in the time of Elizabeth, as noted by Camden, and in an old map of the period.

The De Mowbrays succeeded to the De Beauchamps at the end of the 14th century. From the Mowbrays the site of the castle passed to the families, first of Berkley and then of Bray, and in the 16th century it came into the possession of the Russells, the present owners.

EXCURSIONS ROUND BEDFORD.

About 1 m. S.E. of Bedford is the village of **ELSTOW** (*Helena's Stowe*), famous as the birthplace of *John Bunyan*, and for its remarkable conventual ch., the nave of which is now used as the parish ch.

John Bunyan was born in this village in 1628. His father was a tinker, as workers in white metal are still called in Bedfordshire, and he seems to have followed the same trade. In 1645 he served, when quite young, in the

civil wars, perhaps in the force raised by Sir Samuel Luke, the noted local parliamentary leader. Soon after he married, and became the subject of most painful mental conflicts. About 1654 he left Elstow and began to reside in Bedford, where he joined the Congregational community and began to preach. In 1660 he was imprisoned in Bedford Gaol for breach of the Conventicles Act, and was not released, though he had some periods of freedom, until 1672. He was then appointed pastor of the Congregational Meeting in Bedford, which stood where the present Bunyan Meeting stands, and continued in that office until his death in 1688. His "Pilgrim's Progress" was probably begun during his second imprisonment, which was perhaps in the borough gaol in the gate-house on the old bridge, and was published about 1678. A cottage on the Bedford road is said to have been the residence of Bunyan in his early married life. His birth-place to the E. of the village has long since disappeared. The reader of "Pilgrim's Progress" may perhaps inquire where Bunyan could have found the scenery for his imagery. It has been suggested that the mansion of the Hillesdens, near the ch. then newly built, may have been in his mind when he described "the beautiful house"; and the Ampthill hills, with the beautiful scenery of Ampthill and Houghton Parks, are within an easy walk, and perhaps suggested the "Delectable Mountains."

The Benedictine nunnery of St. Mary and St. Helen was founded by Judith, Countess of Huntingdon, niece of William the Conqueror. The conventual ch. is one of the most interesting specimens of ecclesiastical architecture in the county. The E. portion has been destroyed above ground, but the foundations of the chancel as well as those of the Lady-chapel were laid bare when the ch. was restored in 1882. The E. end of the nave is Nor. It has been blocked off from the former chancel by a late wall in which are three Perp. windows, beneath which in a most incongruous position is a half-length figure of Sir Humphrey Ratcliffe, the owner of the Abbey estates in the early part of the 17th century. The W. end of the nave is E. Eng. The clerestory is also both Nor. and E. Eng. The side aisles appear to have been widened, and the N. Nor. doorway must have been moved out to its present position. Over this door are the figures of the Saviour with St. Peter on one side, and another figure, probably

that of St. Helena, on the other. There are some brasses in the ch., one of which represents Elizabeth Hervey, one of the last Abbesses, in her Benedictine dress. The remains of the Abbey buildings have all disappeared with the exception of an E. Eng. vaulted building, now used as a vestry, attached to the S. aisle. This is supposed to have been the chapter-house of the novices, or "white-veiled" and non-professed sisters. It perhaps was connected with the lodgings of the Abbess, which accounts for its abnormal position. The ch. tower is detached, and the upper portion of it is of about the date of the Dissolution. It has been supposed that the lower part formed a portion of the exterior buildings of the nunnery, and that this was found to be a convenient foundation for a new tower in which to hang the parish bells. In this tower John Bunyan was a ringer.

The ladies of the Abbey, who were many of them of good county families, became somewhat too secular in later days, and certain remonstrances were issued by their bishop, the last in 1580, not long before the Dissolution. Some of the nuns, when pensioned, went to live in Bedford, and their burials are recorded in the register of St. Mary's parish. The estates passed in 1558 to Sir Humphrey Ratcliffe, whose effigy is in so conspicuous a position in the ch. They afterwards passed to the Hillesdens, the remains of whose mansion, "Elstow Place," with a picturesque Jacobean front, join on to the S. side of the ch. There are many monuments of this family in the ch.

On the village green is an old timber building called the Mote-house. It was perhaps the guest-hall of the Abbey.

Elstow remains quite a country village, but 1 m. to the W. is KEMPSTON, which is a rapidly increasing suburb of Bedford, and lies on the other side of the Midland railway. If we proceed to Kempston from Bedford we first pass r. *The Britannia Ironworks*, an important agricultural implement manufactory belonging to Messrs. Howard. In the large front quadrangle long rows of ploughs and other implements may be seen stacked together ready for export. On the further side of this quadrangle are the principal workshops. There is another set of workshops on the E. side, and to the W., behind the offices, is a third set with additional rows of implements in front of them. The figure on the chief block of shops represents Ceres,

and underneath are the words, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." The offices are on the W. side of the quadrangle, and over the door is a figure of Britannia with these words beneath, "He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread." Above them is a sheaf of wheat. Visitors are admitted to view the works on application at the offices. In the waiting-room are lists of the High Sheriffs of Bedfordshire from the reign of Henry II., of the members of Parliament for the county and borough from the time of Edward I., and of the mayors of Bedford from the reign of Charles I. Here also are the exhibition medals won by Messrs. Howard in the United Kingdom and in many other parts of the world, and some antiquities, including a specimen of that now almost extinct instrument, the flail.

Opposite the Britannia Works, on the other side of the road, is the General Infirmary, which was built in 1803. The detached Fever Hospital for infectious cases was added in 1848. The Infirmary is managed by a committee of gentlemen appointed by the subscribers. Soon after leaving the Britannia Ironworks we cross the main line of the Midland railway, and pass l. the barracks (page 23) and r. Kempston Grange. A little further we reach the Kempston gravel pits, which seem to have been both British and Saxon burial grounds, for many sepulchral urns have been discovered in them. On the r. beyond the gravel pits is a row of picturesque modern almshouses, called St. John's Home. On the l. at the first turning is St. John's ch., a modern chapel-of-ease. The old parish ch. (*All Saints*) is quite on the other side of the village, in a retired spot near the river. In the ch. are monuments to the Caters and Longs of Kempston Bury, which stood about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S.W. of the ch., and of which the old walled garden still remains. In the vestry are two panels with curious paintings representing the Fall of Man.

By river from Bedford to Kempston, about 3 m., either by boat or by foot-path along the bank, is a very pleasant excursion, part of the way under high banks and hanging woods. Above Kempston the boating and fishing are private.

2 m. above Kempston by the river, or 2 m. direct by road from Bedford—for the river here makes a large horse-shoe bend—is BIDDENHAM. The ch. (*St. James*) contains some good open seats, and a small brass to one of

the Faldo family, and some monuments of the Botelers. There is also a portion of an embroidered cope dated 1542, now used as an altar covering. In the churchyard is the base of a cross.

$\frac{1}{2}$ m. beyond Biddenham is *Bromham Bridge*, a curious and ancient structure stretching for a long way across the meadows, and supported on numerous flood-arches. On this bridge stood a chantry chapel, the remains of which are to be found in the mill-house.

On the other side of the river are the beautiful woods of *Bromham Hall*, which has been the seat of the Trevors since 1707. "The pointed doorway at the entrance appears to have belonged to a much more ancient mansion. In the Hall are several family portraits, amongst them those of Sir Richard Trevor, a distinguished naval and military officer, knighted by Elizabeth; Sir Richard Trevor of Placetage, a fine picture in the style of Cornelius Jansen; Sir John Trevor of Trevallyn; Sir Thomas Trevor, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and Thomas, the first Lord Trevor. There is also a portrait of Lord Chief Justice Trevor."—*Lysons*.

The predecessors of the Trevors were the Dyves, who inherited Bromham from the family of Wydeville by female descent. Sir Lewis Dyve was a distinguished Royalist leader in the civil wars, and, as such, opposed to Sir Samuel Luke, of Wood End, Cople, on the other side of Bedford, who sided with the Puritans. Sir Samuel Luke was specially commissioned to seize Sir Lewis Dyve, and the latter had a narrow escape, being obliged to swim across a river, probably the Ouse, and the parliamentary troops sacked Bromham Hall so completely that the commissioners found nothing of any value in it. But afterwards Sir Lewis Dyve, with a force of cavalry, drove the parliamentary troops under Sir John Norris out of Bedford, and after partially pillaging the town proceeded to the house of Sir Samuel Luke, "and served that as his own had been by the sequestrators."

Bromham ch. (*St. Owen*) stands very picturesquely in the park. It contains "an Elizabethan canopied tomb, supposed to be that of John Dyve." There is on the chancel floor "a fine brass representing a knight and his two wives under a triple canopy. It was originally laid down to the memory of Thomas Wydeville and his two
sons, about 1485, and reappropriated by a descendant,

Sir John Dyve, who died in 1535, his mother, and his wife."—*H. Addington*.

There are also monuments to Lord Chief Justice Trevor and other members of that family. In a room over the S. porch is a collection of books, chiefly theological works, presented by Lord Trevor.

2 m. W. of Bromham bridge, on a hill in an uninteresting part of the county, is STAGSDEN. The ch. (*St. Leonard*) contains a curious Dec. font. "The basin is octagonal; six of the sides are plain, but on two are sunk panels with small figures, the costume of which appears to be that of nuns. The lower part of the basin is ornamented with ball flowers and heads. It is supported by five octagonal shafts."—*J. H. Parker*.

2 m. N. of Bedford is the village of CLAPHAM, celebrated for the Saxon tower of the church (*St. Thomas à Becket*). There was, of course, a prior dedication, which is unknown. "It is a plain square tower about three squares high, without buttress or tablet, principally remarkable for the extreme simplicity and rudeness of its construction. It is built of small rough rag-stones of several sorts, with a rude round-arch doorway, and above it two heights of small round-arched windows. It has, above the more ancient work, with a plain set-off inwards, a good Nor. belfry-storey with a double window, divided by a central shaft, plain and of early character. This part is surmounted by a cornice and battlement of later date. The arch from the tower, a W. doorway, and the arch between the nave and chancel, are all plain and semicircular. The ch. has about it portions of all the later styles."—*Rickman*. The nave and chancel were nearly rebuilt by Sir Gilbert Scott.

Clapham was formerly a chapelry of Oakley, but is now a separate parish. Dr. Hammond, the learned 17th century divine, was confined in the manor-house here by the Puritans, but the house has disappeared. Above the village is Clapham Park. The modern house occupies a conspicuous position in it, and commands a fine view over the Bedford valley.

2 m. E. of Bedford is GOLDINGTON. The ch. (*St. Mary*) has two late brasses, and some monuments of the Hazeldeans. Goldington Green is skirted by the main road, and on the further side is a house of the 17th century—Goldington Hall.

Risinghoe Castle, commonly called *Castle Hill*, is in Goldington parish. The mound rises conspicuously above the river, but there are no remains of any masonry. It is said by Leland to have been the castle of the Especs. It is more likely to have been a Saxon work.

Newenham Priory (page 27) was also in Goldington, close to the river. The existing walls marking the site, through one corner of which runs the L. & N.W. Railway, are, however, those of the mansion of Sir Robert Catlin, Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, who died 1574, or of that of William Lord Cobham. There is a picturesque old mill close to the site of the priory. Newenham and Goldington make a pleasant walk from Bedford, part of the way along the river bank; or Newenham may be reached by water, a row of about 1 m. The lofty iron foot-bridge, which about halfway crosses from the embankment to the public recreation-ground on the S. bank, was built in 1888. Risinghoe Castle is also a favourite water excursion from Bedford, past Fenlake and Cardington Mills. To make this excursion the boat must be taken through the lock on the r. before the iron bridge is reached.

Beyond Goldington, 3 m. from Bedford, is *Howbury Park*, the property of the Beechers from the time of Henry VIII. until 1780, when it was purchased by the Polhills. At the S.E. angle of the park is a large earth-work called *Howbury Camp*. It consists of a large circular rampart inside which may be traced hut-circles. It was probably of British origin, and occupies a commanding position above the Ouse.

Howbury is in the parish of RENHOLD, and the village lies N. of the park. In the chancel of the ch. (*All Saints*) is an altar tomb with brasses to W. Wayte and his wife, 1510. At the W. end, in the cornice below the battlements, are shields with the arms of Pigott. These arms are also in a window in the N. aisle.

Leaving Bedford by the Midland Railway, and proceeding down the line, we pass r. Clapham with its Saxon tower (page 39), and the woods of Bromham Hall (page 38), and after crossing the windings of the Ouse twice arrive at, 3 m.:

OAKLEY STATION.

OAKLEY (*the oak lea or meadow*) is also called Oakley Reynes from the family of Reynes, who held the manor in the 14th and 15th centuries. This village gives the name to the *Oakley* Hunt, a former Marquis of Tavistock, before he became Duke of Bedford, having been Master of the Hounds while residing here. The club button bears the coronet of a marquis, with an "O" beneath. Oakley also gives names to a square and streets on the Russell property in London, as do other Bedfordshire villages. *Oakley Park* is $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of the station. Through it runs the Ouse, which is crossed near the ch. by an ancient bridge of five arches.

The ch. (*St. Mary*), to the S. of the park, is interesting. In the S. aisle is a recess with a trefoiled arch, within which, under a crocketed canopy, is an effigy, together with the arms, of one of the Reynes family. Across the aisles are the remains of a fine rood screen, which has been cut in half and removed to its present position. It has been richly painted and gilt. On the E. end of the nave is a sanctus bell, not an uncommon feature in Bedfordshire chs. of the middle district. In the churchyard are the stump of a cross and the remains of the stocks.

1 m. beyond Oakley is STEVINGTON. This village also stands on the Ouse. Here is a spring never known to have been frozen, nor to have been dry in time of drought. There was formerly a *hospitium* for pilgrims who visited this holy well. In the village there is a fine wayside cross, but the capital is modern. Baldwin Wake had licence to build a castle here in 1281, and the site of it can be traced W. of the ch.

The ch. (*St. Mary*) is one of the most interesting in the neighbourhood. It is mainly Dec. of the 14th century. The chancel has a Perp. E. window, but the remains of the sedilia, the piscina, and squint are good Dec. The side chapels of the chancel are in ruins. There is some Saxon long-and-short work on the E. face of the tower, and there are round arches and windows in the N. and S. aisles. There is a good Dec. font. The N. and S. porches are Dec. There are some tops of bench-ends, carvings of the 16th or 17th century, representing animals, figures, and men drinking, perhaps in some way

connected with the Church-ales endowment in this parish. These have most of them been removed from the bench-ends, and are to be found loose about the ch. On the timbers of the roof are doves, stars, and figures holding shields. There is the lower part of a rood-screen, with painted figures of *hinds couchant*, which has also been removed out of its place. There is in the N. aisle a curious funeral hanging, dated 1706, given by Theodosia, wife of Henry Chester, of East Haddon, Northants. On the floor of the nave is a brass to Thomas Salle, 1422, the figure in plate armour, the arms two *salamanders in saltire*. This ch., with all its appurtenances, was given to the Prior of Harrold (page 45) by Baldwin de Wake, in the time of King John.

Leaving Oakley station, we cross the Ouse twice, and see 1 m. W. the woods of *Pavenham Bury*. The village of PAVENHAM lies on the other side of the park.

On the E. of the railway, $\frac{1}{2}$ m., is MILTON ERNEST, which takes its second name from the family of Ernest, who were here from 1816 to 1542. Here are the kennels of the Oakley Hounds.

In the ch. (*All Saints*) are monuments of the Turners and Rolts, who succeeded the Ernests.

The railway crosses the Ouse twice more, six times in all from Bedford, the last crossing being by means of two lofty viaducts, side by side, and we reach, 7 m. from Bedford:

SHARNBROOK STATION.

SHARNBROOK is a good centre for visiting many places of interest, but the only accommodation to be had is at the village public-houses, at one of which, the *Railway Inn*, a conveyance is kept. It is easy, however, to come from Bedford by train, and then to walk or drive from the station to the various places mentioned.

The ch. (*St. Peter*) is a fine large Dec. building, altered in Perp. times. The spire is Perp., lofty, and a very fine example. There are monuments of the Butlers, or Botelers, and of the family of Anthony of *Colworth House*.

This mansion stands 1 m. N.-W. of the village. The principal part was built in the last century by John Anthony, Chief Clerk of the Court of King's Bench. The wings were added afterwards. The present owner, Charles

Magniac, Esq., has a good collection of pictures and antiquities, especially of ch. plate, some of the chalices being remarkably fine.

N. of Sharnbrook, on the other side of the railway, 2 m. from the station, is SOULDROP. The ch. (*All Saints*) stands on a hill above the railway. The tower and broached spire are E. Eng., a very good example. The nave and chancel are modern, but correspond well with the old work.

2 m. N.-E. of Souldrop is the curious little out-of-the-way village and ch. of KNOTTING. The shortest way on foot from Souldrop is across the fields, and through Knotting Wood. The ch. (*St. Margaret*) is curious. The chancel is Dec., the chancel-arch Nor. The nave had plain Nor. windows, one of which may be traced. There is a Dec. S. transept. In the W. wall, hidden within the tower, are an early arch and circular window, probably Nor.

S. of Sharnbrook, halfway between that place and Milton Ernest, is BLETSOE (*Fletsoe, i.e. the hill near the fleet or stream*). Bletsoe Castle was the seat of the Pateshulls until about 1368. John de Pateshull had licence to "embattle" his mansion in 1327. It then passed by a co-heiress to the family of Beauchamp, and from them, through an heiress, to the St. Johns, who are now at *Melchbourne*. The site of the castle can be traced E. of the ch., where stands a portion of the 17th century mansion of the St. Johns, now a farmhouse. Margaret, the heiress of the Beauchamps, who brought the estate to the St. Johns, became afterwards the wife of John Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, and by her daughter Margaret the grandmother of Henry VII. It is said that this *Lady Margaret*, the mother of the first of the Tudors, was born at Bletsoe. Her mother evidently lived here in great state with her third husband, Leo, Lord Welles, for there is a monument in the ch. to Ralph Lannoy, describing him as cofferer and keeper of the wardrobe to the most noble Margaret, Duchess of Somerset.

The ch. (*St. Margaret*) is a fine cruciform building without aisles, with a central tower. The style is mostly Dec. The N. transept is the burial-place of the St. Johns. There is a handsome Elizabethan monument to Sir John St. John, his wife, and children. Sir John was brought up by the Countess of Richmond along with

her grandson, Henry VIII., his cousin, who made him guardian to the princesses Mary and Elizabeth. He was afterwards chamberlain to Elizabeth when queen. The gates to the N. transept, and the E. window, were erected in memory of Tudor St. John, vicar, who died in 1884. There is a fresco on the N. wall of the nave, representing St. George and the dragon.

2½ m. S.W. from Sharnbrook by the road, but a m. nearer across the meadows from the river-end of the village, is FELMERSHAM. The ch. (*St. Mary*) occupies a commanding position above the river, and is the finest ecclesiastical edifice in N. Beds. "It is of the E. Eng. period, perhaps late in the style, and of a character verging to Dec. The plan embraces chancel, nave, and transepts. The latter are shallow, and yet all the features of a cruciform ch. are preserved, and, owing to its great size, the common objections to a central tower in a ch. of this form are obviated."

"This edifice suffered restoration in 1853, when new windows, in imitation of those already existing, were inserted E. and W. of the chancel door, and the celebrated and interesting rood-loft, which, until that time, had preserved its original position, was removed, leaving only the screen beneath. In the chancel the E. window is a modern insertion in the Dec. style, replacing an E. Eng. triplet. The original side windows are simple lancets, and are singularly beautiful examples of the work of the 17th century, and, it is needless to say, do not suffer by comparison with the modern imitations. The priest's door appears to be original, with good mouldings and shafts, the arch being enriched with the flower ornament. The tower stands upon four excellent and beautiful arches, with deeply undercut mouldings. The nave arcade is of four arches, the two to the E. being more widely spread than the others; the mouldings are clear, and die away into points at the intersections, without heads or masks. The piers are alternately cylindrical and octagonal in form, counterchanging again with those opposite; the bases are not identical, some having deeper and some shallower mouldings; the brackets supporting the roof-springers at the angles of the nave have the evangelistic symbols. The inserted windows in the aisles and those in the clerestory point to two distinct periods of Perp. alterations, the latter being very late and poor. The

doorways throughout the church are very fine. By the side of the S. door, in the interior, is a stoup, and over it, on the exterior, a niche." "The W. front," says Rickman, "forms a composition very beautiful, and not very common." "There is a richly moulded W. doorway, on either side of which is a panelled arch enclosing two others, with a quatre-foil in the head. Above is an arcade of E. Eng. arches with slender detached shafts, and above this an E. Eng. triplet, with good banded shafts. The tower has a fine arcade, in the centre of which are two lancets for the belfry lights, and above is a cornice of masks. The upper story is a Perp. addition, with a cornice, and a turret at the S.E. angle. The absence of foliated decoration through the church is worthy of notice, as is also the quantity of masks and buckles of a distinctly Edwardian type."—*H. A.*

From Felmersham the road may be taken back towards Bedford through Pavenham, Stevington, and Oakley to Oakley Station, or we may cross the bridge below the ch., and, turning l. at the top of the lane, reach $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. ODELL, or *Wodhul*. The ch. (*All Saints*) is an interesting Perp. church, all of one date. There is a Perp. rood-screen, and there are several monuments of the Alston family.

Odell Castle stands in a good position above the river. There are no remains of the old buildings, but a large rambling mansion of the early 17th century, with its gardens, occupies the site. The S. front was built by Lady Wolstenholme, widow of Sir Rowland Alston, who died 1698. The *Wahuls* or *Wodhuls* were here till the 16th century.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Odell is HARROLD, which was once a market town. An old market-house stands in the centre of the village.

Here was a priory of canons and nuns of the order of *St. Nicholas of Arnonaria*, founded by *Sampson-le-fort* in honour of St. Peter, but afterwards occupied by a prioress and nuns of the order of St. Augustine. An ancient house in the village goes by the name of the "Nuns' Hall." The ch. (*All Saints*) may have been the church of the Priory. It is of different dates in its architecture, and contains monuments of the Botelers and Alstons.

On the bank of the Ouse, near the ch., is *Harrold Hall*,

and just below the Hall is the very curious bridge, called the *Nuns' Bridge*. It consists of a long line of flood arches which are carried across the meadows in continuation of the bridge over the actual stream, and it is said to have been built by a former prioress.

On the other side of the river we arrive at the *one* village formed out of the two parishes of CHELLINGTON and CARLTON. Chellington ch. (*St. Nicholas*) stands conspicuously on a hill E. of the village.

In Carlton ch. (*St. Mary*) is an epitaph to the memory of "Mr. Thomas Wells, who lived parson of Carlton and Chellington about threescore and ten years. He died the 2nd of August, 1642, aged above an hundred." There is another to Jane Goddard, 1610, as follows: "Here lieth her corps entombed, which did ever from infancy to age a dying live. Her body here doth lie, no massy stone entombs her soul. Her soul is Godward gone. Who Godward lives with God shall live and rest. There is her soul entombed in Abram's breast." "In the churchyard are the base of a cross and two flat coffin slabs with crosses."

In Carlton parish is situated the *Bedfordshire Reformatory* for boys. *Turvey*, on the *Bedford and Northampton line*, is the nearest station for this institution.

Leaving Sharnbrook station, the railway divides into two separate double lines, which meet again at *Irchester station*, in Northants. The old line climbs the clay uplands by a steep incline, and runs straight from sta. to sta. The new line, constructed in 1883 to avoid the hill, passes through a tunnel, and then sweeps round by *Wymington*. We are now in the extreme N.W. corner of Bedfordshire, which is occupied by three parishes—that of *Wymington* E. of the line, and those of *Farndish* and *Poddington* to the W. The best way to visit these places is from *Irchester sta.*

From this station there is a footpath across the fields, which brings us in about 1½ m. to WYMINGTON. The ch. (*St. Laurence*) is well worth visiting. Something may be seen of it from the railway. "It is an elegant specimen of the Dec. style, though late, and appears never to have been altered. It was built by *John Curteys*, mayor of the staple at Calais, who died in 1891. He is buried in this church under a canopied altar-tomb to the S. of the chancel, with brasses to him and Albreda his wife." There is also a brass to Sir Thomas Bromflet, cup-bearer to

Henry V., in armour, and Margaret his wife. He died in 1480. "The church has two octagonal turrets at the E., and a very elegant spire at the W. end, ornamented with crockets, and rising from an embattled tower which has tracery of quatre-foils and other ornaments. The upper parts of the windows are ramified in various forms. The spire is singular and very beautiful. It rises from eight arches having open decorated tracery and pedimental canopies. The angles are richly crocketed, and its outline varied by the spire lights which surround it, and which are of similar character to the arches below. There is a remarkable absence of pointed windows, except at the E. end. There is a good Dec. roof, the braces ornamented with foliation. Some of the pillars are fluted in a singular manner. The sedilia are very rich, with straight-sided crocketed canopies and open tracery. The piscina is under a depressed ogee arch, richly crocketed and groined. There are the remains of a piscina in the angle of the window jamb at the E. end of the S. aisle. It is altogether a most interesting ch., and it is seldom that so many objects of interest are brought together in so small a space as at the E. end."—*H. A.* The family of Curteys became possessors of the manor by purchase 1851, so the ch. must have been built by one of the first proprietors.

Proceeding to the W. from Irchester Station, and turning to the l. when arriving at the village of *Irchester*, we reach $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. FARNDISH, the smallest village but one in Bedfordshire. The population has never been more than seventy. The picturesque little ch. (*St. Michael*) has a plain Nor. doorway on the N. The S. doorway is evidently a re-building, with some E. Eng. shafts, capitals, and bases. The tower, which rises from the W. end of the nave, is supported in a curious way. Two of its walls rest on solid oak beams. In a close W. of the ch. is the site of the mansion of the Arnolds. The foundations and gardens can still be traced. It is said that the family became so reduced that one of the descendants was obliged to keep a turnpike, but even in his poverty refused to part with some family property in Northamptonshire. His son was a painter, and became an associate of the Royal Academy. One of his first exhibited pictures was a view of Farn-dish.

1 m. across the fields by a footpath, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. by road, is Poddington. Part of the ch. (*St. Mary*) is of Transition

Nor. date. In the N. wall of the chancel are sepulchral arches of the Childs and Paynes. There are also monuments to the Orlebar family of *Hinwick*.

In the hamlet of *Hinwick* are *Hinwick House*, built about 1710, and *Hinwick Hall*. The *House* contains some good pieces of tapestry and some family portraits. The *Hall* is a picturesque building with moats on each side of the entrance drive. The family of Orlebar has been here since the beginning of the 17th century.

ROUTE II.

Main Line of the Great Northern Railway.

We enter Bedfordshire from the S. about 1 m. N. of Hitchin, and in 2 m. arrive at *Three Counties Station*. Here are extensive brick and cement works, and on a hill on the E. side of the railway is the *Three Counties Lunatic Asylum* for the counties of Bedford, Cambridge, and Hertford. $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. further on we arrive at

ARLESEY STATION.

ARLESEY is a long straggling village, with a railway station at each end of it, situated on the branch of the river Ivel, which rises near Hitchin, and which here contains a few trout. The ch. (*St. Peter*) is an interesting building for the archæologist, as it contains an Easter sepulchre, and a font with figures of Adam and Eve, and a representation of the Crucifixion. There is also a 17th century brass to Richard Edwardes, one of the family of Edwardes of *Arlesly Bury*, near the ch. The present house is modern. Close to the station on the E. side are some earthworks called Eaton Bury, which are probably the site of the castle of the De-la-Poles, who had the manor in the time of Edward III. E. of Arlesey are three small Bedfordshire parishes on the borders of Hertfordshire, all within a few miles of the former place. They are STOTFOLD, ASTWICK, where the ch., which contains some monuments of the *Cockaynes*, has a curious dedication, *St. Guthlake*, and EDWORTH. A cottage in a close E. of the ch. in the last-named parish was the home of *Agnes Beaumont*, a follower of *John Bunyan*, who has left an account of the troubles which she experienced in consequence; amongst other things, being accused of having poisoned her father, a farmer at Edworth.

Close to Arlesey sta. is *Henlow Grange*. The house

E

is Early Georgian. It was fitted up a few years ago with carvings, and contained many antiquities; but since the death of the owner it has been dismantled.

HENLOW village is on the other side of the park. The ch. (*St. Mary*) has a massive W. tower, and contains many monuments of the Edwardes family.

2 m. W. of Henlow is CLIFTON, standing on another branch of the Ivel. The ch. (*All Saints*) contains two altar tombs of the *Fisher* family, who were here in the 16th century.

Leaving Arlesey sta., we pass on the W. side, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. down the line, LANGFORD, the *long ford*, where the two branches of the Ivel meet. 2 m. further we reach

BIGGLESWADE STATION.

BIGGLESWADE (pop. 4,947; omnibus at station; inns, *Swan* and *Rose*, both in the High Street) is a market town, and was formerly an important place on the great North Road, and also had some trade with King's Lynn, by means of the Ouse and Ivel navigation, in coals, timber, and oats, which were brought up the rivers in long gangs of black barges or lighters. The Ivel is no longer navigable except for pleasure boats, and the wharves have been pulled down. The *Sun* inn, near the bridge, was the great change-house for post-horses and the *Rose* for coaches, about fifty of the latter passing through Biggleswade daily in the best days of "The Road." The town is still of growing importance as one of the centres of the market-garden trade, and does considerable business with Covent Garden Market, as the light soil is peculiarly favourable for potatoes, onions, and cucumbers. The light carts without springs, which are seen in this district were invented for the transport of vegetables to London by road. Biggleswade was famous for its eels, on which passing travellers supped. All the mill-ponds on the Ivel afford good sport. Boats can be hired near the old sandstone bridge of three arches which was built in 1796.

The ch. (*St. Andrew*) is a fine building, but was unfortunately much mutilated and disfigured by a so-called restoration in 1882, when all the old stalls and other woodwork were removed from the large chancel and sold. The ch. was *restored* a second time in 1871. It is chiefly Perp. The chancel was rebuilt, according to Lysons, in

1467 by John Ruding, Archdeacon of Bedford, to whom there is a curious but mutilated brass, on which a figure of Death may be traced. There was here a Guild of the Holy Trinity, for whose accommodation probably the spacious chancel was built. A picture of the Last Supper, by an unknown artist, was presented for an altar-piece by Mr. Charles Barnett, of Stratton Park, in the parish, in 1765. It is now on the S. wall of the chancel. The S. doorway is of earlier character than the rest of the ch. The S. porch has a groined stone Perp. vault, and an ogee outer doorway, the head of the arch terminating in a cross. There is a room over the porch, a very common feature in Bedfordshire churches of the central district. These rooms are said to have been priest's chambers or school-rooms. The tower was rebuilt in 1720.

There is a small endowed school, founded by *Sir John Cotton* in the last century.

1 m. E. of Biggleswade is *Stratton Park*. The house, built in the last century, was much altered in 1872. Here was preserved during the civil wars the famous *Cottonian Library*, which was collected by the grandfather of *Sir John Cotton*, who was the then owner of Stratton, having married the heiress of the *Andersons*, the former possessors. The *Barnetts* succeeded to the *Cottons* in the last century. The old mansion of the *Andersons* stood at the edge of the park, where there is now a moated garden. Near the Park gate there was a great find of rose-nobles of Henry V. and VI. in 1770.

Through Stratton Park runs the Roman military road, which coincides with the present high road from the borders of Hertfordshire as far as Stratton Bottom. The Roman road continues to the N., to the camp at *Sandy*, while the high road bends to the l. to enter the town of Biggleswade. *Stratton* takes its name from its position on the Roman road, the *town on the street*.

There are three Bedfordshire villages E. of Biggleswade, on the Cambridgeshire border, a few miles from the town.

They are, first, DUNTON.

Secondly, EYEWORTH, where there was formerly a mansion of the *Andersons*. Nothing is now left but the garden walls, with entrances on the E. & W. sides. In the church (*All Saints*) there are in the chancel several monuments of the *Andersons*. On the S. side is that of

Sir Edmund Anderson, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, one of the judges who sat at the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots. He died 1609, and is represented in his robes and cap with a collar of S's. On the opposite side is the monument of his eldest son, Sir Francis Anderson, in gilt armour, between his two wives, Judith, daughter of Sir Stephen Some, and Etheldreda, daughter of John, Baron Boteler. He died 1616. The monument of his eldest son, Sir Edmund Anderson of Stratton, who died 1638, is on the S. side. It has half-length figures of himself and his wife, Alice, daughter of Sir John Constable, in white marble. They are represented with their hands jointly holding a heart, on which are the words "To God." On the floor is the tomb of Alice, Viscountess Verulam, and Baroness of St. Albans, widow of the great Lord Chancellor Bacon. She died in 1656, probably at the house of the Andersons, to whom she was related. There is also a brass of the date 1624 to Robert Gadburga, his wife, who was one of the Anderson family, and their child. The visitor will also notice some remains of early stained glass in the windows, the tracery of many of which is good.

The last parish on this side of the county is WRESTLINGWORTH.

Leaving Biggleswade sta. for the N., we pass through part of the town by a cutting, and cross Biggleswade Common, where the railway for some distance follows the line of the Roman road from Stratton. We then skirt the fir-covered Sandy Hills, on which the modern house "Sandy Heath" is a conspicuous object, and after running for 1 m. alongside the Cambridge branch of the L. & N.W.R. reach 3 m. :

SANDY STATION.

SANDY was formerly written *Salndy*, and is therefore evidently derived from the *Salēnai*, mentioned by Ptolemy as being in this neighbourhood. The present form of spelling is, of course, a corruption to suit the sandy character of the soil hereabouts. (Inn: *Greyhound*, near station.) This place was until lately a small country village, but it has rapidly increased in size and importance on account of its position as a junction of the Great Northern and North-Western railways, and also on account

of the active operations carried on by market gardeners in the fertile soil at the foot of the fir-covered hills. Sandy has also, from its pleasant, healthy, and central position, become a place of residence for many who are not occupied in local business, and is an example, rare in these days, of an agricultural village developing into something like a town.

There is a handsome cruciform ch. (*St. Swithin*) in the centre of the village. In the chancel is a statue by Theed of *Captain Sir William Peel*, son of Sir Robert Peel, who commanded the naval brigade during the suppression of the Indian mutiny, and died while engaged on this service, at Cawnpore. There are in the N. transept monuments of the Kingsleys and Pymms, of "The Hasells," in this parish, and in the S. transept those of the Paynes, of Sandy Place. There is a wooden porch, a common feature of a Bedfordshire middle district ch.

Sandy, as we have seen, bears its old Roman name, though in a corrupted form, and it was in the time of the Roman occupation an important military post, situated on an important road. This road, the line of which, from its first entering the county, has been already pointed out, skirted the Sandy Hills E. of the railway, passing through what is now called the Chesterfield, and after making its way through a gap in the hills between the so-called Cæsar's Camp and the Roman Camp was continued to the N., along the line known as "*The Hasells Hedges*," to the Roman station of *Godmanchester*, in Huntingdonshire.

On the hill immediately above the railway, N. of the sta., is the important earthwork, commonly called *Cæsar's Camp*. It is of irregular shape, being adapted to the summit of the hill, and encloses about thirty acres. The ditch and ramparts are still in places very steep. It was probably of British origin. A private house and grounds now occupy the interior.

On *Galley Hill*, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the S.E. on the other side of the Potton road, amongst the fir woods, is another camp, of rectangular form, and called the *Roman Camp*. It stands in a commanding position, overlooking a beautiful valley, which runs into the hills.

Below this camp is the site of a Roman station, now called *Chesterfield*. Many Roman remains and coins have been discovered here, as well as in the camp above.

There was also a large find when the Great Northern Railway cutting was made in 1851.

W. of the station, on the other side of the station yard, was a *Roman burial ground*, in which several lead coffins were discovered in the sand in 1881. The most perfect of these is now in the Museum of Mines, Jermyn Street, London.

S. of the village, behind the ch. and rectory, on the banks of the Ivel, is Sandy Place, a house of the early part of the last century, built upon the basement of an earlier mansion. An important Flower and Poultry Show is held in the Park every August, which attracts the best exhibitors from many parts.

The Rectory is a red-brick house of about the same date as Sandy Place, and in the garden are some fine cedars.

1 m. N.E. from the sta. is *The Hasells*, the property of the Kingsleys, and afterwards of the Pymys. There are some pictures by old masters in the house. There is a fine view from a terrace in the grounds, overlooking the valleys of the Ivel and Ouse.

Everton, 1 m. beyond The Hasells, is partly in Bedfordshire, but the ch. is in Cambridgeshire.

3 m. S.W. of Sandy, on the other side of the Ivel, is **NORTHILL**, or *Norhill*, *North Ivel*, a large parish with many hamlets, some of which are commemorated in the following rhyme :

Ickwell and Northill, Calcote and Hatch,
Beeston and Thornecote, all go to one church.

A new chapel-of-ease (*All Saints*) has, however, been built at *Caldecote*, or *Calcote*, to the S.E., for the benefit of that side of the parish.

The old parish ch. (*St. Mary*), a fine building of local sandstone, is at Northill. It is mostly of the date 1405, when it was made collegiate by Sir Gerald Braybroke, an executor of *Sir John Traylly*, the last heir-male of the family who held the barony of Traylly, of which this parish formed part, and who died in 1350. It was endowed for a master and a discretionary number of fellows or chaplains, who were to pray for the souls of Sir John Traylly and his son Reginald. There are some very good carved stalls with *misereres*, and desks, in the chancel, on the N. side of which is a Dec. chapel with the

original glazed tiles. There is a S. porch with a Dec. stone vault, on the key-stone of which are the arms of Sir John Traylly. In the chancel is a Latin inscription to Capel Berrow, author of a treatise "On the lapse of human souls," who was for forty years rector of the parish, and died in 1751. In a window in the S. aisle, of the date 1664, moved from the E. end of the chancel in 1885, are the arms of the Grocers' Company, and of several of their masters and wardens, and also of Margaret, Lady Slaney, with whose bequest, given in trust to the Company for buying up donatives, the advowson of the living, which formerly belonged to the collegiate body, was purchased in 1620. There are monuments of the *Harveys* of *Ickwell Bury*, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Northill, and a vault for the same family has been erected on the N. side of the chancel.

Ickwell Bury is about 1 m. S.W. of the ch. on the further side of *Ickwell Green*. The house, which is of the early part of the last century, stands on a basement still older, in which the beams are rough-hewn. A modern portion containing the drawing-room and other rooms was added in 1865. Over the fire-place in the drawing-room is the motto

"A Dieu foi, aux amis foyer."

Above are figures in stone of five members of the Harvey family, the centre one being that of Elizabeth Harvey, one of the last Abbesses of Elstow Abbey (p. 36). A portrait of the Abbess, taken at an advanced age, also hangs in the room.

The hall contains a fine collection of armour. The library contains in a case, among other china, a plate which belonged to Cardinal Wolsey, James Harvey having been Comptroller of the Household to the Cardinal. The stained glass window with family arms was inserted in 1865. In the dining-room are several portraits of Harveys and Ongleys, and also one of Archbishop Laud. Beneath the portrait of one of the John Harveys, for there were many of that Christian name, hangs a short hunting sword given to Mr. Harvey by a prince of Hesse Cassel, whose life he had saved in a boar hunt. The gallery at the head of the stairs is entirely lined with tapestry. At the end of it is the old drawing-room, now called the music room. The "carved room" contains carvings probably by Grinling Gibbons. In the "tapes-

try room ' on the glass door of a very curious old wardrobe, are these lines scratched with a diamond :

"If I should name a lovely lass
I'll write fair Cockayne upon the glass."

The lines were written by a John Harvey of the last century, the husband of the "fair Cockayne," who belonged to the family of that name at Hatley (p. 69). The portraits of the husband and wife are in the dining-room.

There are in the house some secret hiding places, in one of which a large quantity of old silver, which had been concealed during the civil wars, was discovered about forty years ago. A portion of the Northill estates came to the Harveys by grant from Henry VIII., and the title-deed, which is in the muniment room, has an etching of that king at full length on his throne, a very handsome young man. The Harveys of Ickwell are a branch of the Harveys or Herveys of Thurleigh (p. 98).

2½ m. of N. SANDY IS TEMPSFORD STATION.—TEMPSFORD village is situated where the Ivel runs into the Ouse. Its name occurs as the scene of contests between the Danes and Saxons more than once. It was taken by the Saxon King Edward in 921, and burnt by the Danes in 1010.

The church (*St. Peter*) has one of the common wooden Bedfordshire porches, and contains monuments of the families of Chetwoode and Payne. The latter were in the last century the owners of *Tempsford Hall*. The house has, however, been nearly rebuilt since their time.

Near the Ivel is an earthwork called *Cannock's Castle*, which perhaps guarded a ford.

The railway has continued to run parallel to the old north road the whole way through the county, though it has crossed it at Biggleswade. This road is a splendid one for cyclists, and matches are frequently run upon it. Its former importance may be seen by its great width, though a large portion is now given over to wide side-balks. At Tempsford bridge, which crosses the Ouse just below the village, the road divides, a branch running along on each side of the river; the r. one, which leads to St. Neots, runs through, 2 m., LITTLE BARFORD, the birth-place of the poet laureate, *Nicholas Rowe*, in 1673.

The l. branch of the road, after crossing the bridge, reaches, 3 m., EATON SOCON, where a large mound near the river marks the site of the castle of a younger branch

of the famous Bedfordshire family of the BEAUCHAMPS. They were here from the time of Henry II. to 1292. The ch. (*St. Mary*) is a fine one. It contains portions of a rood-screen and some fragments of stained glass, and has been described by *Rickman*. It was restored in 1867.

Beyond Little Barford and Eaton Socon, respectively, the roads enter Huntingdonshire, and the railway also enters the same county about 3 m. below Tempsford sta.

3 m. W. of Eaton Socon, in the same parish, is *Bis-meade* or *Bushmeade Priory*, which was founded in the reign of King John by members of the Beauchamp family, Oliver and his son Hugh. It was an establishment of Augustinian canons, and was dedicated to St. Mary. The Beauchamps seem to have had a partiality for the Augustinians, for their foundation at Newenham, near Bedford (p. 40), belonged to the same order. The remains at present existing consist of the refectory, with a good doorway, now converted into a stable. A mansion of the time of Queen Anne has been joined on to the conventual buildings. The dining-room contains two large pieces of tapestry, representing scriptural subjects, and a good chimney-piece. A *cartulary* of the Priory, on vellum, was long preserved in this house, and is still in possession of the owners, the Wade Gerys.

Eaton Socon and *Bushmeade Priory* are more easily reached from *St. Neots*.

If, instead of turning N. towards Eaton Socon, after crossing Tempsford bridge, we turn to the l. up the hill, we reach the little village of Roxton. In the ch. (*St. Mary*) is an altar tomb to Roger Hunt of Chalveston, or Chawston, a hamlet in the parish, who was appointed Baron of the Exchequer in 1439. There are also remains of a painted rood-screen. On the W. side of the village is *Roxton Park*.

ROUTE III.

Bletchley and Cambridge Branch of the London and North-Western Railway.

This railway goes right across the centre of the county, and will, in conjunction with Route I., bring the tourist within reach of all the principal places of interest in Bedfordshire. Each station mentioned is within easy distance of Bedford, so that a resident in the county town can take the train to any station and walk to the various places described. The W. part of the county is not so well adapted for cycles as the E. There is a good service of express trains at Bletchley, with which the trains on this branch correspond.

WOBURN SANDS STATION.

The station itself is in the parish of Wavendon, Buckinghamshire. S. of the station is the new district of WOBURN SANDS, formed out of the parishes of Wavendon and Woburn, and pleasantly situated on the N. slope of the Woburn hills. The place has become a favourite residence within the last few years. Many new houses have sprung up, and a district ch. has also been built. Lodgings can easily be obtained, and the air and soil are considered good for convalescents and town-dwellers.

Woburn itself is nearly 3 m. from the station. Omnibus several times a day. The road after leaving Woburn Sands passes up a hill through a pretty fir wood.

WOBURN (hotel, *The Bedford Arms*) does not exceed in population a large-sized village, but it possesses a Literary and Scientific Institute and Reading-room, and has a market-house, built in 1830 to take the place of an older one. The town is quaint and old-fashioned-looking, and owes what little history it has to the Abbey. The old parish ch. (*St. Mary*) was taken down about 1869, the chancel being left as a mortuary chapel. It contains a

monument, 1630, to Sir Francis Staunton, High Sheriff of the county and a benefactor to the town, and Dame Elizabeth his wife, and a brass, 1394, to John Morton son of John Morton of Pottesgrove, Lord of Lovelsbury. Round the walls of the chapel are painted the arms of various land-owners of the neighbourhood, including those of some of the Abbots. The ch. tower was taken down and rebuilt in 1830, but some of the old work may be seen in the lower portion. On one side of the ch. yard is a school-building of the 17th century, on the other is the old Vicarage-house. The modern ch. stands close to the entrance gates of Woburn Park on the E. of the town.

WOBURN ABBEY.

This Cistercian Abbey was founded in 1145 by Hugh de Bolebec at the suggestion of the Head of the Cistercian Abbey of Fountains in Yorkshire, of which it became a daughter-house. The Abbey became an important one, possessing all the usual mediæval rights over Woburn and the neighbourhood, and stood at a high valuation at its dissolution. The last Abbot, Robert Hobbs, after he had resigned the Abbey to the King, was hanged on a tree in the park which is still pointed out, and the Abbey and estates were in 1547 granted to John, Lord Russell, afterwards Earl of Bedford. There is nothing left of the old monastic buildings, and the present interest of Woburn is centred round the splendid mansion built principally in the last century by Flitcroft, for John, Duke of Bedford. The Abbey stands towards the S.E. of the park, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the town. The park itself is about 12 m. in circumference, and is in places very picturesque, and abounds in fine trees. The principal entrance is to the S.W. on the London road, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the town, but there is an entrance from the town itself close to the new ch.

The Abbey is open to the public on Fridays. Visitors must provide themselves with tickets at the Park Farm which they will pass soon after they have entered the park. The house occupies four sides of a quadrangle, the fronts of which are about 200 feet in length. The principal front and state entrance is to the W. The usual entrance is on the E. face, in front of which across a large court is a block of buildings containing the riding-school and tennis court, flanked by the stables.

Visitors are conducted first to the waiting-room, a museum which contains many objects of interest. At the far end of the room is the genealogical tree of the Russell family painted on the wall. Beneath are the handsome wheelbarrow and spade used by a former Duke of Bedford when turning the first sod of the Bletchley and Bedford railway.

There is at Woburn Abbey a magnificent collection of portraits which are fully described in an excellent catalogue drawn up by Mr. Scharf. Most of the portraits are hung in the *Picture Gallery*, which occupies the inner face of one side of the quadrangle, and in the corridors which occupy the other three sides. The following are among the most important portraits in the picture gallery : Queen Mary ; Queen Elizabeth by Marc Gheerhardt, a curious portrait in a robe embroidered with ears and eyes ; Philip and Mary by Lucas de Heere ; Queen Jane Seymour by Holbein ; Edward VI., when Prince of Wales, also by Holbein ; Sir Philip Sidney by Gheerhardt ; Lord Burleigh and other members of the Cecil family ; Robert, Earl of Essex ; Oliver Cromwell ; and General Monk. There is also the portrait of Rachel, the widow of Lord William Russell, taken at an advanced age. The portrait of Lord William himself, who was executed in 1683, is in one of the corridors, and above it hangs his walking-stick. In another place hangs a copy of the speech made at his trial. The portrait of his tutor, the Rev. George Thornton, is also in the corridor. There are also portraits by Kneller, including one of Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, and a copy made by him of one of Charles I. by Van Dyck. Here is also the original lion's head erected in Button's Coffee House by Addison for the reception of contributions to "The Guardian." The third Earl of Bedford, 1573 to 1627, is represented in two portraits with his arm in a sling. Among the modern portraits are those of several members of the family of this century, and a portrait group of Francis, Duke of Bedford, and gentlemen of the county, members of the "Oakley Hunt," by Stephen Pearce. The *saloon* contains "Angels" by Murillo, the "Dead body of Abel" by Rubens, and a "Marchioness of Tavistock" by Reynolds. The *West Drawing-room* has a large collection of miniatures. In the *Queen's Bed-room* at the N.W. corner is the original picture by Hayter of the trial of Lord William Russell. In this and the *Drawing-room* adjoining are pictures by Landseer. These rooms were

occupied by the Queen in 1841. The *Venetian Drawing-room* contains twenty-five views of Venice by Canaletti. The *Library* is a fine room containing some 5,000 volumes and many portraits of leading artists, statesmen, philosophers and poets. The chimneypieces of many of the rooms should be noticed, as well as the panels over the doors and the sculptured and painted friezes. The oldest rooms are at the N.E. corner on the basement, and date from the early part of the 17th century. They are now used as offices, but contain some very fine china services, including a dinner service given by Louis XIV. to the fourth Duke of Bedford. One of these rooms, curiously lined with shells, is called the Grotto.

To the S. of the tennis court is a *Sculpture Gallery*, opening into the gardens which were laid out by *Repton*. It contains a valuable collection of ancient sculpture together with a few modern works, including a replica of the *Graces* of Canova. Amongst the ancient works the most remarkable are a pavement from *Hadrian's Villa*, and the *Lanti Vase*, so called from the Roman family of that name, its former possessors. It is a splendid example of a Greek lustral vase, six feet in diameter, brought from *Hadrian's Villa*, and somewhat resembling the *Warwick Vase*. There are also several specimens of sculpture from *Ephesus*, amongst which is a remarkable sarcophagus, the sides of which contain panels with sculptured representations of the story of the dragging of *Hector* round the walls of *Troy*, the ransoming of the body by *King Priam* for its weight in gold, and the after history of *Andromache* and *Astyanax*. This sarcophagus was discovered in the last century, in fragments built into the wall over one of the gates of modern *Ephesus*. Some Roman vases found in the park are also in this gallery, but nothing is known of any Roman station here, though *Woburn* is not far from the *Watling street*.

N. of *Woburn Park*, close to the railway, is *ASPLEY GUISE*. This village has also increased in population during the last few years on account of its salubrious position, and many houses have been built, in which lodgings can be obtained.

Aspley ch. (St. Botolph) is Dec., but has been much modernised. There are some small brasses, including one to a member of the family of *Guise*, from which the parish

takes its second name, and who were here from 1259 to 1540. There is also the tomb of Sir Edwin Sadleir, the last baronet of the family which succeeded the Guises. There is besides an altar tomb with an effigy of a knight in mailed armour.

1 m. E. of Aspley Guise is HUSBORNE CRAWLEY. The ch. (*St. Mary Magdalene*) is chiefly remarkable for its lofty and well-proportioned Perp. tower. There is a monument in the ch. of a knight in armour with his lady, under a canopy supported by Doric columns. It has no inscription, but from the arms appears to be that of one of the Thompson family.

There are two small villages to the E. of Woburn Park, EVERSOLT, which takes its name from having been the hold of the *efer* or wild boar, and gives a name to part of the Russell property in Bloomsbury; and MILTON BRYANT, where in the small, much modernised ch. (*St. Peter*) there is a recumbent figure of Sir Hugh Inglis, by Sir F. Chantrey. The country about here is very well wooded, with occasional peeps, from the higher ground, of the Dunstable downs to the S.

On the N. side of the Woburn Sands station are two very small villages, HOLCOT or *Hulcot* and SALFORD. The family of *Chernocke* were in Holcot in the time of Henry VII. and VIII., and in the small ch. (*St. Nicholas*), of about that period, is an Elizabethan tomb to one of its members. Salford ch. (*St. Mary*) has a cross-legged effigy, with two lions at the feet and an angel at the head, in a rich canopied recess. The triple bell-cot at the W. end, which forms a conspicuous feature of this little village ch., is modern.

Leaving Woburn Sands station, we reach in $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.:

RIDGMOUNT STATION.

The village of RIDGMOUNT, the *Rouge Mont*, stands on a hill 1 m. S. of the station, at the N.E. entrance of Woburn Park. There is a modern ch. in the middle of the village, and at a little distance is the old ch., now used as a mortuary chapel. It is a pleasant walk through the park from *Woburn Abbey* to the Ridgmount gate, and the tourist can take the train again at Ridgmount station without returning to Woburn.

At Ridgmount there was a castle of the important mediæval Bedfordshire family of *Wahul*, *Wodul*, or *Odell*,

who were here in the 13th century. It was afterwards occupied by Lord Lisle, of Rougemont, in the time of Edward III. At *Bickering Park*, 1 m. to the E., there was in 1688, in the time of *John Crook*, the then owner, a great gathering of Quakers.

On the N. of the railway, in Ridgmout parish, stands *Brogborough House*, once the residence of Colonel Okey, the regicide. It is surrounded by mounds which seem to mark the site of an earlier and important position. The hills to the N. here form a large amphitheatre, enclosing a portion of the Bedford valley. *Brogborough* is seen close to the line on the l., as the train emerges from a cutting, and beyond it 2 m. N. is *Cranfield Court*, a large modern mansion in a conspicuous position on the hill. CRANFIELD is a large village situated on high table-land, and the ch. (*St. Peter & St. Paul*) has a Nor. N. door.

1 m. beyond Brogborough the railway reaches the Bedford valley at *Lidlington sta.* The village of LIDLINGTON lies most picturesquely at the foot of the wooded hills. The old ch. (*All Saints*), situated in a lovely churchyard halfway up the hill, was partly built at the beginning of the present century, but was soon in so dilapidated a condition, on account of its insecure position on sliding sand, that a new ch. was built in the village by the Duke of Bedford in 1886. There is a brass in the old ch., now only used as a mortuary chapel, to William Goldington and his wife, of the date of the 15th century, which must have been taken out of a still earlier ch., which has entirely disappeared. In the ch.-yard, from which there is a beautiful view, there is the grave of Mrs. Bentinek, the wife of a former incumbent. She was a gipsy girl of great beauty, whose acquaintance Mr. Bentinek made when he was an undergraduate at Oxford. He had her educated and then married her, but she died young, greatly beloved by her husband's parishioners.

Lidlington station is only 2 m. from Ridgmout station, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. further we reach

MILLBROOK STATION.

The village of MILLBROOK stands on the brook from which it takes its name, in a beautiful glen 1 m. S. of the railway. The ch. (*St. Michael*) stands on a spur of the hills above the village. Great part of it fell down sud-

denly in 1888, when some excavations were being made for the insertion of warming apparatus. It contains in the S. aisle busts of Lord and Lady Holland, of Ampthill House, and of their child. Happily these busts were not injured by the fall of the aisle. They bear the following inscriptions :

"HENRY RICHARD VASSALL, LORD HOLLAND, son of STEPHEN FOX, LORD HOLLAND, born 21st November 1773 ; died 22nd October 1840. In the assertion of public freedom he was ardent and intrepid. In the relations of private life, courteous and benevolent. A lover of peace, a hater of oppression. The injured lost in him a fearless advocate. He was an accomplished scholar, a brilliant ornament of society. His friends were many and affectionate. He had no enemies."

"ELIZABETH VASSALL, LADY HOLLAND, the attached and affectionate wife of HENRY RICHARD VASSALL, LORD HOLLAND, whose loss she deplored with grief which never ended but with her life. Born 28rd March 1771 ; died 17th November 1845."

There is a tablet to Dr. George Lawson, rector, who died in 1682, and who had been employed by Robert, Earl of Aylesbury, of Houghton House (page 19), in several confidential negotiations relating to the restoration of Charles II. There is also an inscription to a faithful servant of Lord Ossory, of Ampthill Park, dated 1805, and remarkable for its extraordinary grammar. There is a brass to Robert Were, priest.

Sir John Cornwall, who fought at Agincourt, was created Lord Fanhope in 1432, and Baron of Millbrook in 1443. His arms are in the chancel. He lived at Ampthill Castle (page 18), and was buried in Ampthill ch.

To the N. of Millbrook station, 1 m., is MARSTON MORTEYNE. There is a short way to the village across the fields, from the end of the straight road leading from the station. Marston, the *Marsh-town*, takes its second name from the family of Morteyne, or Mortaine, who were here in the time of Edward II. The ch. (*St. Mary*) is well worth visiting. In a chapel S. of the chancel is an Elizabethan monument to Serjeant Snagge, Speaker of the House of Commons. There are also slabs to members of the same family on the floor of the chancel. There are brasses to Thomas Reynes, 1451, whose arms are on the outside of the E. window, and Alice his wife ; and to a former

rector, dated 1420. The Reynes arms are also on the Snagge monument. On the S. door are the arms of Mauleverer, *three leverets*. There are remains of frescoes in many parts of the ch., which was restored by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1873, when the modern reredos, the painting being the work of the daughter of the then rector, was set up. There are the remains of a rood-screen, painted and gilded, with figures in the panels. The roof, with carved bosses and angels, should also be noticed. "To the N. of the chancel is a vaulted chamber with ribs of Dec. character, in it a plain piscina, and a doorway to a newel staircase, which leads to a chamber above, in which there is a piscina, and what seems to have been a fireplace. This room appears to have been vaulted. Whether these two rooms were for the use of the sacristan only, or were the residence of a recluse, is uncertain. On the N. side of the chancel-arch is a doorway to a newel staircase, which opened to the rood-loft, and leads to the roof. The chancel and nave arches are good moulded Perp., on slender piers, the W. bay much smaller and lower than the others."—*H. A.*

The tower is very curious. It stands some way from the ch. The lower part is very solid, with walls several feet thick. It was probably used as a place of refuge, and the only entrance appears to have been on the first floor. The upper portion was added in the 14th century, when the present doorway on the ground level was also made.

After leaving Millbrook station the railway turns to the N., and runs parallel to the Midland railway until it crosses it near Bedford. We leave behind us the Ampthill hills, the most beautiful part of the county, and pass across the flat Bedford valley, which is of a stiff clay, though there are beds of gravel near the Ouse.

1 m. l. we pass WOOTTON (*Wood-town*). *Wootton House* was the seat of the *Monoux* family in the 17th and 18th centuries. Five baronets of the family are buried in the chancel of Wootton, and the two others in Sandy ch.; the younger branch of the family having resided at Sandy Place (page 54).

The ch. (*St. Mary*) is a fine building, chiefly Dec. There is no clerestory, and the aisles rise nearly to the height of the nave. There is a sanctus bell in a bell-cot at the E. end of the nave. The wooden N. porch is a reproduction of an old one. There are remains of a rood-

screen, but the church has suffered much from injudicious "restoration." The aisles, N. and S. of the tower, are modern. The Monoux monuments fill the chancel. The one to the W. is to Lieutenant Monoux, who fell on the King's side in the Monmouth campaign 1685. His body was first buried at Chard, in Somerset, but removed afterwards to Wootton.

There was a bell foundry at Wootton in the last century which was worked by the families of Russell and Emberton, and supplied some of the bells in Wootton ch. and in many chs. in the neighbourhood. The site of the foundry is near the ch., in the yard of the *Star Inn*.

We next pass l. Kempston and the barracks (page 23), and r. Elstow Abbey ch. (page 35), and arrive 6 m. from Millbrook station at

BEDFORD STATION (page 23).

Leaving Bedford station, we soon cross the Ouse twice. In the neck of land enclosed by the sweep of the river we pass over the site of *Newenham Priory* (page 40). Newenham mill is a picturesque object l. of the railway.

4 m. r. we pass WILLINGTON. The two buildings between the ch. and the railway are part of the stables and dove-cots belonging to the mansion of the *Gostwicks*. Leland says: "Mr. Gostwick, beyng borne in Willingtoun, bouté this lordship of the Duke of Northfolk, now lyving, and hath made a sumptuous new building of brike and tymbre, a fundamentis, in it, with a conduct of water derived in leade pipes." Nothing now remains of the "sumptuous new building" except a chimney stack forming part of a modern farmhouse, and the garden wall. The site of the castle of the Mowbrays, Earls of Norfolk, may be seen at the E. end of the village, close to the railway, r.

The ch. (*St. Laurence*) is a very perfect specimen of a late Perp. church. The nave has only a N. aisle, from which it is divided by three elegant Perp. arches. The ch. was restored in 1878, but the bright-coloured tiles in the sanctuary are a reproduction of the original ones. N. of the chancel is the *Gostwick chapel*, also Perp. There is a plain altar tomb to *Sir John Gostwick*, 1541, Master of the Horse to Henry VIII. Above this tomb there is a very fine tilting helmet, possibly the one worn

by Sir John at the "Field of the cloth of gold." The arms on Sir John's tomb differ from others of the Gostwick family, having, on the chief, *three horses' heads coupéd*, in allusion to his office, instead of three mullets. There are also a good alabaster effigy of Sir William Gostwick, 1615, and a mural monument of Sir Edward and Lady Gostwick, with figures, and a chronogram and other lines, in Latin, describing the mutual affection of the couple. Above hang a processional or funereal tabard and helmet. The last Gostwick ruined himself by an election, and the property was sold in 1731 to *Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough*. It now belongs to the Duke of Bedford. Willington is reached by road from Bedford, or from *Blunham* or *Cardington* stations.

After leaving Willington, the railway leaves the Ouse, and, crossing a slight elevation, which forms the watershed between the valleys of the Ouse and Ivel, reaches $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. :

BLUNHAM STATION.

BLUNHAM is a pretty village on the banks of the Ivel. The ch. (*St. Laurence*) is interesting. The nave and chancel are lofty, and there is a Nor. chancel arch. In the S. aisle is a recumbent effigy of Susannah Longueville, 1620. This lady was the daughter and heiress of Charles Grey, Earl of Kent; she resided at the manor-house of Blunham, and carried the barony of Grey of Ruthin into the family of Longueville, Earls of Sussex (p. 22). There is a fine tomb of the founder, and a remarkably perfect rood-loft staircase.

1 m. S. of Blunham is MOORHANGER, or MOGGERHANGER, now a separate parish with a modern ch.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.W. of Blunham is GREAT BARFORD, on the other side of the Ouse. It is approached by a long bridge, with numerous flood-arches, very similar to Bromham bridge (page 38), and built in the early part of the 15th century. The ch. (*All Saints*) "has some mural monuments of the Anscells on the N. wall of the chancel, with figures in alto-relief, date 1591," and some brasses.

There is at *Creakers* (*Crève-Cœur*), about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the N., the moated site of the mansion of the Fitz-Jeffreys, who were there from the 15th to the 17th century.

The railway, after leaving the station, skirts *Blunham Park*; and *Blunham House* forms, with the rectory and

ch., a very pretty group as seen from the line where it crosses the Ivel. 1 m. further it is crossed by the North Road at the hamlet of Girford, where there is one of the sandstone bridges of the last century, on the site probably of the old *ford*. 1 m. further we reach

SANDY STATION, AND JUNCTION WITH THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY (page 52).

Leaving Sandy, the railway passes under the fir-covered Sandy Hills, across the Roman station of Chesterfield, and beneath the Roman Camp, and in 3 m. reaches

POTTON STATION.

The line from Sandy to Potton was at first a private railway constructed by Captain Peel, the owner of the property through which it runs, but was absorbed into the Bedford and Cambridge branch of the L. & N. W. R. in 1862.

POTTON is a small market town (pop. 2,006). It has frequently suffered from destructive fires, and there is a tradition that a hare is always seen in the town just before a fire breaks out. The most serious fire was in 1788. There is a market-square, though but little trade is done now. In the ch. (*St. Mary*), which stands outside the town to the E., is an inscription to Susannah Greenfield, who died 1787, aged 105 years, stating that "she had for the last forty years lived chiefly on flour provisions, and her only drink was wine and water."

1 m. S. of Potton is *Sutton Park*. The house is modern. The old mansion of the *Burgoynes*, who have been here since the latter part of the 16th century, was on a moated site in the park, commonly called "John-o'-Gaunt's Castle." This house was burnt down in the last century. The popular tradition connects John of Gaunt with Sutton and the *Burgoynes* in the following lines:

I, John of Gaunt, do give and do grant
To Sir Roger Burgoyne, and the heirs of his line,
Sutton and Potton till the world shall be rotten.

SUTTON (*South-town*) village is S. of the park. In it stands an extremely curious and picturesque *pack-horse bridge*, which is kept in repair by an endowment of land

in the parish of Marston. The ch. (*All Saints*) contains many tombs and monuments of the Burgoyne family, amongst them an effigy of Sir John Burgoyne 1604, and a brass cross to Sir Thomas Burgoyne 1516. The rectory is in the gift of St. John's College, Oxford, and the celebrated Stillingfleet, afterwards Bishop of Worcester, was rector here, and is said to have written "*Origines Sacræ*," and other of his works, in the old existing rectory-house.

2 m. E. of Potton is COCKAYNE HATLEY, which takes its first name from the family of Cockayne. Chief Baron Cockayne, who died in 1427, resided here.

The ch. (*St. John*) stands in the park, and is remarkable for some superb carving brought from the dissolved abbey of Alne or Anne, in the Netherlands, by a former incumbent, the Hon. H. C. Cust. "The chancel has busts of saints and others set in niches: between which are emblems of the Crucifixion and the Sacraments. The carving on these and on the altar rails is the most delicate that can be imagined. 'The body of the ch. is fitted with stalls, and the pulpit is richly carved.'—*H. A.* These splendid specimens of conventual Renaissance work look rather out of place, however, in a small plain Perp. country ch. in England. An altar tomb, stripped of its brass, is said to be that of Chief Baron Cockayne. There are several other monuments of the family from 1527 to 1739.

2 m. beyond Potton the railway enters Cambridgeshire.

ROUTE IV.

Bedford and Hitchin Branch of the Midland Railway.

Leaving Bedford from the Midland station, we cross the Ouse, and the L. & N. W. R., and arrive, 3 m., at

CARDINGTON STATION.

CARDINGTON was the residence of *John Howard*, the philanthropist, who spent all the latter part of his life in visiting gaols, and in trying to ameliorate the condition of prisoners. His house was the low-roofed one N. of the ch. He served the office of High Sheriff for the county in 1778, and was then first led to examine into the condition of prisons.

The ch. (*St. Mary*) has a central tower, supported, apparently, on Nor. arches, but the building has been so disfigured that it is difficult to make out the architectural features. In the chancel are tombs with brasses to the Gascoignes, and their successors, the Harveys, of the 16th century. There are also monuments of the Whitbreads of Southill House, who originally came from Cardington.

On the Bedford road is Cardington Cross, a modern erection, but the stump of an older cross may be seen where the Elstow and Bedford roads divide.

1 m. N. of Cardington is *COPLE*. The mansion of the *Lukes*, "Wood End," was pulled down a few years ago. In this house, it is said, Samuel Butler conceived, and perhaps wrote, "*Hudibras*," and in so doing took off his patron, *Sir Samuel Luke*, a noted local Puritan leader (page 38).

There are in the ch. (*All Saints*) many monuments of the family of Luke, as well as those of the families of Launcelyn, Rolond, Grey, Bulkley, and Spencer. Shields on corbels supported by angels bear the arms of Thomas Grey, and of Launcelyn, his wife's family, and of Sir Walter Luke, who married the heiress of the Launcelyns.

The device on his shield is that of a *hat*, with the word *loy*, i.e. *loi* or *law*, an allusion to a privilege granted to him by Henry VIII. to wear his hat in the royal presence. The chapels, on the arches of which these arms appear, were probably built by the Greys and Lukes.

Proceeding by train from Cardington sta., we see, 1 m. r., *Cardington Cotton End*, a large hamlet of Cardington on the old Bedford and London road. Here and at the neighbouring hamlet of Herrings Green there are good houses of the early part of the last century, belonging to families now extinct.

About 1 m. further we dive under the *Warden Hills*, through a tunnel, and as soon as we emerge from it see on the left the remains of *Warden Abbey* (page 73), a building with quaintly twisted chimneys; and 1 m. further arrive at

SOUTHILL STATION.

We are now on the W. side of Southill Park, and Southill House and the village of SOUTHILL are about 1 m. to the E.

Southill House was the residence of the Keelings in the 17th century. At the beginning of the last century it was bought by Sir George Byng, a distinguished naval officer in the reign of Queen Anne. He was created Viscount Torrington and Baron Byng of Southill, and died in 1733. His family continued at Southill until the year 1795, when the house and estates were purchased by Mr. Samuel Whitbread the brewer, who at once enlarged and altered the house. The central portion which rests upon a vaulted basement was the original mansion, but Mr. Whitbread cased it with stone, and added wings on either side. The house contains many family portraits, chiefly by Opie, but in the dining-room is that of the first Mr. Whitbread of Southill by Sir Joshua Reynolds. In the same room are portraits of Speakers Lord Eversleigh and Lord Hampden, and one of Lord Grey by Opie. In the drawing-room are portraits of Mr. Samuel Whitbread the younger, the distinguished member for Bedford, who represented that borough from 1790 to 1815, by Opie, and Lady Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Lord Grey, by Hoppner. Other pictures in this room are "The murder of the Princes in the Tower," by Northcote, and "Milton dictating to his daughters," by Romney. The birds in the panels over

the doors are by Gilpin. In the organ-room is a valuable little Wilkie, "The cut finger." In the north breakfast-room is a view of the house when in process of rebuilding, taken from the south side, and in the entrance hall is a view of Mr. Whitbread's wharf. In the library are several interesting portraits. At the entrance are three busts, one of Mr. Samuel Whitbread the first, with these words underneath : "*Nobis hæc otia fecit*," another of his distinguished son, and a third of Mr. William Henry Whitbread, his grandson, who also represented Bedford. On the tops of the book cases are arranged well executed models of cattle by Garrard, and above these hang portraits of Smeaton the engineer, and of some of the head clerks and managers of the brewery, in the first Mr. Whitbread's time. In the billiard-room are portraits of Mr. Samuel Whitbread the second, and of the Earl and Countess Grey, his father and mother-in-law, all by Opie. There are some memorials of John Howard the philanthropist, who bequeathed his house at Cardington (p. 70) to Mr. Whitbread. In the east gallery is his clock, and in the west gallery his medallion portrait.

The park is very extensive, and contains a large lake. On the road from the station is an old farm-house surrounded by moats, called Gastlings, once the property of Warden Abbey.

The first Viscount Torrington is buried in the family mausoleum, attached to the parish ch., on the borders of the park, and here also is buried his son, *Admiral John Byng*, whose trial by court-martial, and execution, are thus referred to in the inscription over his tomb :—"To the perpetual disgrace of Public Justice, the Honble. John Byng, Esq., Admiral of the Blue, fell a martyr to Political Persecution, March 14th, 1757, when Bravery and Loyalty were insufficient Securities for the Life and Honour of a Naval Officer." The ch. itself (*All Saints*) was much modernised in 1816. There is a monument to Dilly, the publisher, at whose house, in Southill, Dr. Johnson was a visitor.

N. of Southill is *Warden Park*. The present mansion was built in 1876, in the place of the old house of the *Ongley* family, which was then taken down. The village of WARDEN is very picturesque ; the houses are well cared for, and ornamented with rustic wood-work.

The ch. (*St. Leonard*) was fitted up with a quantity of

wood-carving, in rather indifferent taste, by Lord Ongley in 1842. There is in a N. window of the nave, under a canopy, the figure of a kneeling abbot. In the ch.-yard is the mausoleum of the Ongleys.

About 1 m. from the village, at the S. end of the railway tunnel, stood the *Cistercian Abbey of De Sartis*, founded in 1135 by Walter d'Espece, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. In 1217 Fulke de Breauté, whose enormous outrages seem to have rendered him the terror of the county (page 38), had a dispute with the monastery about a wood, and carried off thirty of the monks to his castle at Bedford. Afterwards terrified at the spiritual menaces of the Church, he not only confirmed to the Abbey the rights to the wood in question, but actually submitted himself to corporal discipline in the chapter-house. A mansion stood on the site of the abbey in the 17th cent., belonging to the family of *Bovey*. The only remains of the abbey now to be seen above ground are a brick building of Perp. date. The foundations of the Abbey church were uncovered in 1838, when several stone coffins, some containing skeletons, a crozier, and other remains, were found. There were also discovered several fragments of carved work, bosses, &c., on which the painting and gilding retained its original brightness, which are now at Southill House. A particular sort of pear, called *Wardens*, grew here, and the arms of the Abbey were *azure with three wardens or*.

After leaving Southill station we skirt the park, and then descend through pretty scenery into the Ivel valley. We cross the river, and arrive, 4½ m., at

SHEFFORD STATION.

SHEFFORD (pop. 1,070; inn: *The White Hart*) is a small market-town, and forms part of the parish of Campton. The ch. (*St. Michael*) is therefore a chapel of that parish. It was rebuilt in 1850, with the exception of the tower, which is poor Perp. There is a Roman Catholic establishment, with a Boys' Reformatory, near the station. The Ivel was formerly navigable as far as Shefford, and the position of the town on the London road gave it in former days some importance.

Roman remains have been discovered both N. and S.

of Shefford. Those to the N. are at *Stanford Bury*, where some fine specimens of Roman glass were found. Those to the S. are about halfway between Shefford and Campton.

Campton has been for many years connected with the family of Osborne, whose seat is at Chicksands Priory, which is in the parish. Their burial-place, which is attached to the N. side of the ch. (*All Saints*), was built by Sir John Osborne, who died in 1628, and was Remembrancer of the Exchequer, and Commissioner of the Navy to James I. Besides the monument of the founder are many others, including one to *John Osborne*, who was in the diplomatic service, and was also Colonel of the Bedfordshire Militia. He was born in 1748, and died at Rudolstadt, in Saxony, when he was on the point of returning to England, in 1814, after being detained eight years on the continent by Napoleon. The last words on his monument are:—"Eheu, quam procul a patriâ, prope Roderstock in Germaniâ, jacet sepultus." There is also in the nave of the ch. a brass to *Richard Carlyll* and his wife, 1489. In the churchyard is buried the poet *Bloomfield*, who died in 1823.

There is an interesting old house opposite, called the *Dower House*, which once belonged to the *Ventris* family. A panel in one of the rooms contained the following inscription:—"In the year 1645 Sir Charles Ventris, Knight-Baronet, created by King Charles for his bravery in the civil wars, was in the night-time, by Oliver's party, shot at as he was walking in this room, but happily missed him."

Chicksands Priory is 1 m. N. of the village, and is by far the most interesting monastic antiquity in the county. It was founded about 1150 by *Pain or Paganel de Beauchamp* and *Roisia*, his wife, members of the *Beauchamp* family of Bedford, for nuns and canons of the order of *St. Gilbert of Sempringham*.

The Lady *Roisia* was also the foundress of the Priory of Augustinian canons at Newenham near Bedford. Her first husband was Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex, the founder of Walden Abbey in Essex. They had a son who was also Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex, and who died in the lifetime of his mother. His body was taken from Chester to Walden for burial, and *Roisia* was so anxious for the welfare of her own foundation at Chick-

sands that she tried to intercept it on the way, and have it buried at the latter place, in the hope that the Mandeville family would in the future divert their attention from Walden to Chicksands. But "the knights who attended the procession, being made acquainted with her intention, armed themselves and reinforced their guard, and so conveyed the body in safety to Walden." Roisia contrived, however, to deprive Walden Abbey of a portion of the perquisites, and the furnitures of the Earl's chapel, by which are signified probably the hangings used at the funeral services, were given to Chicksands. The chronicle of Dunstable states that "In the year 1257, when there was a great and distressing scarcity of corn, fifty-two monks and ten nuns were sent from Chicksands to other monasteries of their own order." At the time of the dissolution, 1538, there were only a sub-prior, six monks, and eighteen nuns. The estates and abbey were granted to the family of Snow, and from them passed to the Osbornes about 1564. The Osbornes were strong royalists, and Sir Peter Osborne, Knight, who succeeded to his father, the first Osborne of Chicksands, held Castle Cornet in Guernsey for the King. He suffered considerably for the royal cause, being obliged to pay a compensation of nearly four thousand pounds to the Parliament for his estates. His son John, who succeeded, was created a baronet by Charles II., "as a small recompense for the family sufferings."

The present mansion consists of a pile of buildings added to from time to time. Portions of the old monastic buildings remain, but were terribly interfered with in the last century by two destructive architects, Ware and the well-known Wyatt. The most prominent portion, which now forms the east front, may have been the dormitory. It has been converted into modern apartments in the interior, but the exterior, though covered with stucco, and adorned with a porch and modern windows, still has something of the original appearance. Behind are the cloisters, two sides of which contain some of the ancient work. Offices and stables occupy the site of the monastic church. The arches of the cloisters have been filled in with ancient stained glass, and in them are contained various antiquities, mostly, however, unconnected with the priory itself. In one of the walls is the monument of an abbot, but it is that of an abbot of *Pipewell* in North-

amptonshire, brought from the site of that monastery. The two stone coffins, however, belonged to the priory.

In the house are some valuable family portraits, the most remarkable of which are those of "Peter Osborne, Keeper of the Privy Seal to Edward VI.; Sir Peter Osborne, Governor of Guernsey, the father of Dorothy, Lady Temple; Francis Osborne, a young son of Sir John Osborne, Knight, author of 'Advice to a Son,' and essays on King James and King Charles; Colonel Henry Osborne, killed at the battle of Naseby; and Vice-Admiral Henry Osborne. Among the portraits of those not connected with the family are Sir Philip Warwick and his wife; a fine whole-length of Edward VI., by Holbein; and a very valuable portrait of Oliver Cromwell by Sir Peter Lely. It is a fine picture, and exhibits the strong features of his countenance, with all the roughness and warts, which, we are told, he charged the artist by no means to omit. It was taken after he was Protector, and is said to have been a present to Sir John Danvers, one of the judges of Charles I., whose daughter married Sir John Osborne, the first baronet. In a room built in imitation of the chapter-house at Peterborough is a state-bed with the initials I. A. and a crown. It is said to be the bed on which the Pretender was born, and became the perquisite of the chamberlain, by whom it was given to the Osborne family."—*Lysons*.

At Chicksands Priory lived Dorothy, daughter of Sir Peter Osborne, Governor of Guernsey and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer. Here she wrote most of her letters to Sir Richard Temple, ambassador to the Low Countries, who waited for her seven years, the marriage being disapproved of both by his father and by Dorothy's father and brother. The letters of Dorothy during her long engagement give an interesting account of the life of a young lady in a Bedfordshire country-house in the middle of the 17th century. It was at Chicksands also that she probably met and refused the various suitors brought forward by her family, some of whom were country gentlemen of the neighbourhood.

2½ m. from Shefford we reach

HENLOW STATION.

The village of HENLOW (page 50) is 2 m. to the N.E., and is nearer to the Arlesey station on the Great Northern.

1 m. W. of Henlow Station is STONDON. The ch. (*All Saints*) has been much modernised. We are now on elevated ground at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, of which we have a good view.

1 m. further W. is MEPPERSHALL, which formerly belonged to the Meppershalls and Botelers, whose tombs, with brasses of the 15th century, are in the ch. The moats round the old manor can be traced W. of the ch., and are called "the hills."

The ch. (*St. Mary*) is a small cruciform building, with a central tower patched with brick. Besides the brasses of the *Botelers* mentioned above, there are some other monuments worth notice. One, which stands against the blocked-up window on the S. side of the chancel, represents a former rector, *Timothy Archer*, in his pulpit. He lived in the 17th century, and was ejected by the Puritans, but at the Restoration he was restored to his benefice, and died 1672, aged 75. On the other side, against another blocked-up window, is a monument to *Towers Ashcroft*, who held the rectory for a long time—from 1710 to 1765.

Part of Meppershall is in an outlying part of Hertfordshire, and the curious old house W. of the church, which was the former rectory, stood accordingly in both counties. On a beam was this inscription—

If you wish to go to Hertfordshire
Hitch a little nearer the fire.

Halfway between Stondon and Meppershall, adjoining a farmhouse, is the *Chapel of St. Thomas*, now desecrated. It has a very fine Nor. N. doorway, a Dec. nave, and a Perp. chancel.

1½ m. further W. are the two villages of GRAVENHURST. In *Upper Gravenhurst* are the remains of *Ion House*, now a farmhouse. *Lower Gravenhurst* ch. (*St. Mary*) was built by *Sir Robert de Bilhemore*, as appears by a French inscription on his tomb, without date. In the porch is a coat-of-arms, supposed to be his. In the ch. are monuments to the *Pigots*.

1 m. S. of Gravenhurst is **SHILLINGTON**, a large village containing a remarkably fine ch. (*All Saints*) standing on an eminence, a land-mark to all the country round. The nave and chancel are built in one continuous line, so that no division between the two appears externally. The E. end of the chancel is terminated in an unusual way by two square battlemented turrets, and underneath the E. portion of the chancel is a crypt with a groined roof resting on a central pillar. The tower was rebuilt in 1750. There are brasses to two ecclesiastics in the N. chapel, one being to *Matthew Ashton*, rector, and canon of Lincoln, who died in 1400. His *punning rebus*, an *ash-tree* standing in a *tun*, may be seen on the cornice outside, between the turrets. There are also monuments to the families of Longueville and Briscoe. The woodwork in the church is good, especially the screens.

2 m. W. of Shillington is **HIGHAM GOBION**, which takes its second name from the family of *Gobion*, who were here till the 14th cent. On the manor-house, now a farmhouse, are the arms of the Botelers, who succeeded the Pigots, and were an important family hereabouts.

The ch. (*St. Margaret*) contains a monument to the learned *Dr. Castell*, rector, who arranged the *Polyglott Bible*. He died in 1685.

About 2 m. S. of Stondon, in a corner of the county, is **HOLWELL**, probably *The Holy Well*. In the church is a curious brass to *Robert Wodehouse*, priest, 1515.

About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Henlow station the railway enters *Hertfordshire*, and in 4 m. we arrive at Hitchin station, the junction with the Great Northern Railway. Before the direct line from Bedford to St. Pancras was constructed, all the Midland R. London traffic passed along this line, and proceeded to King's Cross by the Great Northern. It is now nothing but a small local branch.

ROUTE V.

Bedford and Northampton Branch of the Midland Railway.

Leaving the Midland station at Bedford, we proceed down the main line for about 2 m., and then turn off to the N.W. near Oakley Park, r. (page 41). Beyond Oakley we pass Stevington r. (page 41), and 6 m. from Bedford reach

TURVEY STATION.

The line about 2 m. further enters Buckinghamshire. Close to the station is a set of almshouses erected by Mr. Barton in 1884. On the hill l. of the railway is Pict's Hill House.

TURVEY village is $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of the station. On the way there we pass l. *Turvey Abbey*. The house is at the village end of the park. "There is no record or trace of a religious house here, nor does any part of the parish appear to have been monastic property, excepting a small manor which belonged to the Priory of St. Neots. The house may be on the site of this manor."—*Lysons*. There is a fine organ in the Abbey, which was the residence of Mr. C. L. Higgins, a well-known authority on church music, who died in 1885.

Turvey is a flourishing village, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Ouse, which here divides the counties of Bedford and Buckingham.

On the W. of the village, behind the church, is *Turvey House*, with a park sloping down to the river.

In the middle of the river, between the mill and the old bridge, is a statue of Jonah, which serves to mark the height of the water. Turvey has frequently suffered from floods, especially in 1797, when the roadway was covered by the water to the depth of four feet.

The church (*All Saints*) was enlarged and well restored a few years ago. In the S. wall of the nave are two heads of Saxon arches. There are some interesting monuments of late date in the *Mordaunt Chapel*, at the entrance to which is a well-preserved fresco, protected under glass, representing the Crucifixion. "The *Mordaunts* came to Turvey in the 12th century, becoming possessed of the manor by marriage with the heiress of Sir William d'Alneto or Dauney. William Mordaunt in 1297 had the King's licence to enclose a park at Turvey, which became the chief seat of that ancient family. Sir John Mordaunt was created Baron Mordaunt of Turvey in 1582. His descendant, *John, Lord Mordaunt*, was created *Earl of Peterborough* in 1628. In time the Mordaunt family became possessors of all the landed property in the parish. The monuments are those of Sir John Mordaunt and the three first barons. Sir John was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and father of the first Lord Mordaunt. He died in 1504, having, by his will, founded a chantry in the parish church, and endowed it with lands for the support of two chaplains, to pray for the souls of himself, his kindred, and his ancestors. His effigy is represented in armour, over which is a robe with a collar of S's. His lady is in a robe with a rich coif. The monument of John, the first Lord Mordaunt, who died in 1562, has the effigies of himself and his lady. He is represented in armour with a robe. She is in a robe with puckered sleeves, and has the angular head-dress which was worn in the reign of Henry VIII. The monument of Henry, second Lord Mordaunt, is in the N. chapel, with his effigy in armour, between those of his two wives, under an open canopy supported by Doric columns. In the same chapel is a plain altar tomb to the memory of Lewis, the third Lord Mordaunt. *Charles, Earl of Peterborough*, distinguished both as a soldier and as a statesman in the reigns of William III., Anne, and George I., is buried in the vault beneath without any monument."—*Lysons*.

The organ was erected at a cost of 1,700*l.* by the late Mr. Higgins of Turvey Abbey.

There is a modern brass to the memory of *Legh Richmond*, the author of the "Dairyman's Daughter" and "Annals of the Poor," who was rector of the parish for many years.

Turvey is the nearest station for the *Bedfordshire*

Reformatory, and the villages of Carlton and Chellington, (page 46). A pleasant round of 9 or 10 m. may be made from Turvey, the tourist passing through these villages, as well as those of Harrold (page 45), Odell (page 45), and Felmersham (page 44), and returning to Bedford from Sharnbrook (page 42).

ROUTE VI.

Luton and Dunstable Branch of the G.N.R., and
Leighton and Dunstable Branch of the
L. & N. W. R.

The chief attraction of this route is the curious old out-of-the-way town of Dunstable, with its Priory ch. The downs in the neighbourhood are also interesting to those who care for ancient castles and other earthworks, and Leighton ch., of much later date than Dunstable, is one of the finest chs. in this part of the country.

Leaving the G.N.R. station at Luton, we skirt the foot of the Chiltern Hills, and reach $4\frac{1}{2}$ m.:

DUNSTABLE. CHURCH STREET STATION.

DUNSTABLE (pop. 4,627; inns: *Saracen's Head*, *Red Lion*, *Sugar Loaf*) is a very ancient borough, and, though it has lost much of its former importance as a stage on the old North Road, has still considerable trade as one of the centres of the straw-plat trade. The plat market is held on Wednesdays.

History.—The town of Dunstable is said to have been founded by Henry I., who, finding that the road to the N. was much infested by robbers at this spot, ordered the woods to be cut down and built himself a royal residence called Kingsbury. This is the account as given by Dugdale, who adds a stupid story about the town taking its name from *Duns* or *Dunning*, the robber thief; but we must go farther back for the origin of Dunstable. Perhaps a British town existed here, and it was certainly an important Roman station, for it has been identified with *Forum Dianæ*, situated at the junction of the *Ickneild street* and the *Watling street*. Its name signifies the *staple* or market on the *duns* or downs, and the words *infra* or *super dunum* frequently occur in the "Chronicle

of Dunstable " as descriptive of the lands round the town. This "Chronicle " was begun by Prior Richard de Morins in 1202, and carried on by his successors. It contains records of the principal events which happened in the priory, and of the various alterations in the ch. Dunstable came into notice in 1131, the year of the foundation of the Priory, by Henry I., for *Black Canons*. This was built near to his own residence, where, the "Chronicle " tells us, he had kept Christmas with great splendour, and received an embassy from the Earl of Anjou, in 1128. The king reserved his palace in his own hands, as there were no apartments ready for him in the Priory, and he kept Christmas again at Dunstable in 1132. His successor, King Stephen, did the same in 1137. In 1154 a friendly meeting took place between the latter and his successor, Henry of Anjou, when the war between them was terminated. In 1204 King John gave his palace and gardens to the prior and canons, who at all future visits of royalty entertained the king and his suite in the Priory. In 1213 the town was destroyed by fire. In 1214 a great synod was held at Dunstable. In 1215 King John was at Dunstable, on his way to the north. In 1217 Lewis the dauphin, with the English barons who had been in arms against King John, halted for a night in the town. In 1244 a great number of discontented barons and knights assembled at Dunstable and Luton, under pretence of a tournament, although their meeting was really for political purposes. The tournament was prohibited by royal mandate, to which they yielded obedience, but gave a convincing proof of their power by sending Sir Fulk Fitzwarren to the Pope's nuncio, whose proceedings had given great umbrage to the English, with a peremptory order, in the name of the barons and knights assembled at Dunstable and Luton, that he should instantly quit the kingdom, an order which the nuncio, finding the king's authority insufficient to protect him, was obliged to obey. Henry III. frequently honoured the Priory with his presence. In 1247 he was there with his queen, Prince Edward, and the Princess Margaret, on which occasion the prior presented their Majesties with a gilt cup, and the prince and princess with a gold buckle each. In 1265 the king and queen, with Cardinal Ottoboni, the Pope's legate, and Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, made some stay at Dunstable. In 1276, some of the king's

falconers, who were lodged in the Priory, having had an affray with the chaplains and the prior's servants, the king came in person to try the matter, and summoned a jury of thirty-six men out of two hundred, unconnected with the Priory or town. It appeared that the falconers had begun the fray, and had killed one of the chaplains. In 1290 the body of Eleanor, queen of Edward I., rested one night at Dunstable on its way to Westminster, and two *bawdekyns*, or precious cloths, and one hundred and twenty pounds' weight of wax for candles, were then presented by the canons. As the bier passed through the town it stopped in the middle of the market-place, while the chancellor and nobility marked out a proper spot for the erection of a cross, the prior assisting at the ceremony, and sprinkling the ground with holy water. This cross was demolished during the parliamentary wars, probably by the soldiers of the Earl of Essex, who appear to have been quartered in Dunstable in 1643. In 1341 King Edward III. and his queen were present at a grand tournament held at Dunstable. Henry VI. was there in 1457, and Queen Elizabeth in her progress in 1572. The priors of Dunstable enjoyed very considerable privileges. They had the power of life and death, and sat with the king's justices itinerant, who, on their circuit, always came to Dunstable for the purpose of trying such offences as had been committed within the jurisdiction of the town. They had more than one gaol, for it appears by the "Chronicle" that the principal gaol was rebuilt in 1295, and that they had a gallows at a place without the town, called Edescote. During the insurrections in the reign of Richard II., 1381, the townsmen exacted from the prior a charter of liberties, but it was cancelled afterwards on the plea that it had been obtained by force. The last prior was Gervase Markham, who took an active part in the proceedings relative to the divorce of Henry VIII. and Katharine of Aragon. The commissioners sat at Dunstable, while the queen was residing at Ampthill, which is not far distant, and the sentence of divorce was pronounced by Archbishop Cranmer, May 23, 1533, in the chapel of Our Lady in the priory church. Prior Markham, after the Dissolution, had a pension of 60*l.* a year. He died in September, 1561, and was buried at Dunstable, as appears in the parish register.

Dunstable returned members to Parliament in very early days.

Elkanah Settle, a well-known dramatist and political writer in the time of Charles II., was born at Dunstable in 1648. He was the antagonist of Dryden.

The first attempt at theatrical representation is said to have been made at Dunstable, where the play of "The Miracles of St. Katharine" was performed under the direction of Geoffrey, a secular priest, and afterwards Abbot of St. Albans.

The tourist will naturally turn first to the Priory ch. This is a well-known and splendid example of Nor. work, but unfortunately it has been shorn of its beauty, for the chancel has disappeared, having been pulled down after the Dissolution. "It is," says Mr. A. Hartshorne, "Nor. work of the best kind; for it has neither the roughness of the early work of the style nor the exuberant ornament of the later work." The N. aisle is of later date, principally Perp., and the nave is now covered with a roof of early Perp. character. The ch. was carefully restored a few years ago, under the direction of Mr. Somers Clark. Unfortunately the material of which it is constructed is the local Totternhoe stone, which is of a perishable character. The most striking view of the exterior of the ch. is from the W., the W. front, with its Trans. Nor. and E. Eng. work, being very interesting.

There are no remains of the Priory buildings, with the exception of a large vaulted chamber, evidently the substructure of a considerable building, and probably a part of the prior's lodgings. This is now contained in a modern house to the W. of the ch.

In the ch.-yard is a tombstone with a curious sculpture of an accident to a timber-cart, and this inscription: "To the memory of Mr. Thomas Vaughan, who was unfortunately killed by a stick of timber falling out of his own carriage, the 3rd of November 1759, in the 42nd year of his age."

"The Black Friars established a house of their order in Dunstable in 1259, sorely against the will of the prior and canons, but, the friars being patronised by the Court, it was in vain for them to resist."—*Lysons*. There was also a house or hospital for lepers, belonging to the prior and canons, who appointed the warden. It existed as early as the beginning of the 13th century.

Henry I. is said to have founded schools at Dunstable. It appears by the "Chronicle" that in 1224 disputes ran so high between the scholars and the townspeople that in a fight many were wounded on both sides, some mortally.

There is a grammar-school, and there are also almshouses founded in the last century by Mrs. Chart, Mrs. Ashton, and Mrs. Blandina Marsh.

The new Town Hall was built in 1880 after the destruction of the former one by a fire. The *Anchor Inn* has a curious old gateway, which escaped this fire.

1½ m. N. of Dunstable is *Houghton Regis*, situated a little off the high road. It derives its second name from having been a part of the royal domain round Dunstable.

In the ch. (*All Saints*) are an altar tomb under a canopy, bearing the arms of *Sewell*, and two small brasses of priests.

The tourist who likes walks across healthy downs will find several excursions in the county S. and W. of the town. In a nook to the S., almost enclosed by Hertfordshire, are the two Bedfordshire parishes of WHIPSNAD and STUDDHAM. The church (*St. Mary*) in the last-named village is described in the "Dunstable Chronicle" as having been dedicated in 1220, and there are portions of the original building still existing.

To the W. of the town, within an easy walk, are two most interesting camps, which no one should miss: *Maiden Bower* and *Totternhoe*, especially as the latter commands a splendid view over Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. We first reach Maiden Bower, 1½ m. The earthworks consist of a vallum, nearly circular, thrown up on a level plain, and enclosing a space of about nine acres. The banks are from eight to fourteen feet high. There is no ditch on the S., and on the S.W. and W. only a very small one. It has not been determined whether this camp is of Roman, Saxon, or Danish origin. On the N. side there is a steep descent into a pretty wooded combe, in which is situated *Sewell*, the old mansion of the family of that name, now a farmhouse. The central hall is now divided by an upper floor. One wing remains.

Proceeding along the downs, we reach the *Totternhoe quarries*, from which was taken the clunch stone of which so many churches in Bedfordshire were built. A tunnel

has been driven into the side of the hill, but it is now closed.

About 1 m. further we reach Totternhoe Castle. This consists of a lofty circular mound, with a slight vallum round its base, and a larger one of an irregular form at some distance from it. On the S.E. of this is a camp, in the form of a parallelogram, about 500 yards long and 250 yards wide, the length extending from N.W. to S.E. This inclosure is protected on three sides by a vallum and ditch, which are very perfect on the S.E. side. On the S.W. there is a precipitous descent. The irregular work is supposed to have been of British, the parallelogram of Roman origin. From the top of the round mound, locally called "Totternhoe Nose," the view extends to Cliefden and Hedsor on the Thames.

On the S. side of the castle, below the hill, is the village of TOTTERNHOE. The ch. (*St. Giles*) is Perp. "The roofs of the nave and aisles are well carved with figures and bosses."—*H. A.*

The walk may be prolonged to Eaton Bray (page 88). On the way back to Dunstable some tumuli, called the "five knolls," may be visited.

The trains run on from Ch. Street station, Dunstable, to the L. & N. W. R. station, $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. Leaving the latter station, we pass under the earthworks of Maiden Bower, and reach, 3 m. :

STANBRIDGEFORD STATION.

About 1 m. N. of the station are the villages of STANBRIDGE and TILSWORTH. Stanbridge was formerly a chapel of Leighton Buzzard. It is now a separate parish. The ch. has a pulpit, with sounding-board, of the 17th century. There is a tablet to the memory of Henry Horner and Jane his wife, "who lived together in wedlock for about sixty years." He died in 1627 at the age of 95, she in 1629 at the age of 86. There is another tablet to Darnell Ellingham, 1718, who "left good instructions to his children and grandchildren in a book of his own writing, to desire them to fear God, and to be obedient to their parents." The font is E. Eng., on three clustered shafts.

Tilsworth ch. (*All Saints*), about 1 m. E. of Stanbridge, is an interesting building with a large and massive tower. S. of the altar is the 17th century monument of

Sir Henry Chester, created K.B. at the coronation of Charles II., his wife and child. The monument was erected by Sir Anthony Chester of Chicheley, Buckinghamshire. N. of the altar is the tomb of Gabriel Forder, 1582. In the N. wall of the nave is the tomb, with an effigy, under a canopy, of an ecclesiastic. In the S. aisle, in front of the tomb of Thomas Prentice 1729, is a slab to Adam de Tulsworth, with a French inscription of early date.

Below the ch., a little way to the S., are the remains of the manor-house of the *Chesters*, now a farmhouse. The gate-house remains entire, with a fine carved roof on brackets. A door just inside the entrance opens on a staircase, which leads to a chamber above lighted by a Perp. window over the entrance, and with a round-headed doorway on the side, which apparently led to a building now destroyed. In the vicarage garden behind the ch. is a round mound, supposed to be a tumulus.

1 m. N. of Stanbridge is EGGINTON. This ch. was also a chapelry of Leighton. *Egginton House* is a square Georgian mansion at the end of the village.

1½ m. S. of *Stanbridgeford sta.* is EATON BRAY, lying low on one of the upper branches of the Ouzel, and taking its name from its position, "*the town on the water.*" It has its second name from an old family who were created *Barons of Eaton Bray* in the time of Henry VIII. This village may be easily visited as part of an excursion to Totternhoe Castle, but is remarkable for nothing but the ch. (*St. Mary*), which is unrestored, and contains several interesting points. Each aisle has an original Perp. re-dos at the E. end, the one in the S. aisle being the most perfect. The ironwork on the S. door is very good. There are two brasses to members of the *Bray* family. The ch. was terribly treated in Perp. days, when a clerestory was built on the top of the E. Eng. nave, which is consequently in great danger of being crushed. The tower in later bell-ringing times has had loads of ill-constructed masonry put upon it and against it, so that its original square shape has been changed into an oblong.

After leaving Stanbridgeford station the railway passes 1. the village of BILLINGTON, formerly a chapelry of Leighton, and standing on a hill. 3 m. further we reach

LEIGHTON STATION.

This is a junction with the main line of the L. & N. W. Railway, distant from Euston Terminus about 1 hr. The station is in the parish of Linslade, Buckinghamshire.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD, a market town from Saxon times (pop. 8,278; hotel: *Swan*), is 1 m. from the station.

Omnibus.) It stands on the E. bank of the Ouzel, which here forms the boundary between the counties of Bedford and Buckingham, and has its source a few miles to the S.E. in the Dunstable hills. This town is said to be identical with the Lygeanburgh mentioned in the Saxon Chronicle as having been taken from the Britons by Cuthwulph in 571, after the battle of Bedford. Its second name is derived from the family of *Beaudesert* or *Bosard*, who were a family of importance in the county in the time of Edwards II. and III.

There is an interesting cross in the market-place, standing on five steps, on which are placed four arches of Perp. date, supporting five niches under ogee canopies, containing figures which are restorations. The whole is surmounted by a crocketed spire. The market-house close by has also figures against the wall.

The parish ch. (*All Saints*) "is a large and fine church. It consists of a nave and aisles, N. and S. transepts, with a tower and spire at the intersection, and a chancel, to the N. of which is an ancient vestry." There are also N., S., and W. porches. "The tower and spire, and most of the walls of the aisles and chancel, are E. Eng. The nave, piers, arches, and doors are E. Eng. or very early D. The buttresses are few. The windows are now nearly all Perp., clearly insertions, but some of them have very good tracery," and have been filled with excellent stained glass. "There are some good returned stalls in the chancel, and many very good E. Eng. mouldings about the ch. There is a portion of good wooden screen work. The W. door is a curious specimen of ornamental iron work, and the latch has a hand to hold the ring."—*Rickman*. It is the work of *Thomas of Leighton*, who also executed the iron work round the tomb of Eleanor in Westminster Abbey. The lectern is remarkable. It is of wood and of early date, and represents an eagle, here called a buzzard, standing on a good shaft and base. In the N. wall

of the chancel is a Jacobean tomb of one of the Wyngate family. On the S. is a monument to John Wells of Heath, 1615. There are monuments of the Leighs, who held the manor in the 17th century. The ch. was restored in 1886.

In the churchyard is the grave of "the Rev. John Wilson, who was vicar of this parish 62 years. He died on Jan. 21, 1849, in the 91st year of his age." There is also an epitaph to a young man killed by lightning in the year 1824 :—

Cease, weeping parents, 'twas my Maker's will
That I should fall by lightning in the field.
At God's command it struck, and then I fell,
I had not time to bid my friends farewell.
My father ran, though he could scarcely stand,
When he saw me lay burning on the land.
Then with his hands he put the fire out,
Saying, "Dear Lord, my son is dead, I doubt."

There is also the tombstone of Eliz. Studdle, who died 1726 at the age of 112.

The church guild of Leighton had their hall in Broad Street, part of which was standing until a few years ago.

There is an Institute with library and reading-room, in which there is a good Biblical library.

There is a Club in the market-place.

King Henry II. granted a manor in Leighton to the abbess and nuns of the *Cistercian Abbey of Fontevrault* in Normandy, who established an alien cell in this parish at a place called Grovebury, the prior of which was procurator-general in England for the mother-house.

"Besides this alien priory, Bishop Tanner says, there seems to have been a house of Cistercian monks in Leighton, which was a cell to Woburn Abbey."—*Lysons*.

There are schools and almshouses endowed by the families of Shute, Wilkes, and Leigh in the 17th and 18th centuries. There is a modern chapel-of-ease (*St. Andrew*).

"Near Leighton on the heath is an enclosure, nearly circular, containing several fields surrounded by a ditch, which in many parts is deep, and which has a good deal the appearance of having been a camp."

2 m. N. of Leighton is **HEATH AND REACH**, formerly a chapelry of the parish. The ch. (*St. Leonard*) is modern.

8½ m. E. of Leighton is **HOCKLIFFE**. It is situated on the old *Watling street*, which is here the high road

from Dunstable to the N. It is sometimes called *Hockley in the hole*, on account of its position below the Chiltern Hills.

In the yard of the *White Hart Inn* there is a wooden arcading round the yard, and a beam with an inscription over the door-way. This carving is said to have come from *Hockliffe Grange*, which stands W. of the ch. This inn is 36 miles from London, and at one time 80 coaches passed the door every day. The large parlour in which the coach passengers dined is on the right of the gate-way. The *White Hart* is now the hostelry of the "Cycling Tourist Club," so that its old tradition with "the road" is still kept up.

2 m. N. of Hockliffe, along the Watling street, is *BATTLEDEN*, consisting chiefly of *Battlesden Park*. The existing house was built in 1850, but nearly the whole of it was pulled down in 1886. There is a little parish ch. in the park near the house.

There is another little parish ch. just outside the park to the N., *POTTESGROVE*, which contains some curious brasses to members of the Saunders family in the 16th century. That to Richard Saunders, who probably put on the existing nave roof about 1530, and his wife, is engraved on a plate, with angels censuring on the reverse side.

ROUTE VII.

By road from Bedford to Kimbolton through the north of the county.

The N.W. part of Bedfordshire is not so inviting as the other portions, either as regards natural scenery or interesting objects. The country is an ugly clay upland intersected by valleys which run down to the Ouse valley on the E. and W. sides, the whole of this portion of the county being a sort of promontory surrounded on three sides by this strangely winding river. There are scarcely any gentlemen's seats, and the villages are mostly small and without interest, except to the lover of old churches, who will find in them several remarkable examples of various dates, "*unrestored*." This part of the county was very impassable until the beginning of this century, when the high road was constructed. It is a peculiarity of this road, which measures rather more than 12 m. between Bedford and Kimbolton, that it runs through only three villages, others being approached by side roads. A railway is now contemplated. The road is a bad one for cyclists, as it runs across the side valleys, and is a succession of ups and downs.

2 m. from St. Peter's Green, Bedford, we pass some extensive earthworks on the r., called *Moulbury Hill*. Here the road makes two sharp bends after it has climbed the hill, and, looking back, we get a fine view of the Bedford valley, with Clapham Park in the foreground. After descending the next hill we pass *RAVENS DEN*. The ch. (*All Saints*) is on the r.

About 1 m. further N. is *WILDEN*. Francis Dillingham, one of the translators of the Bible, was rector of this parish.

2½ m. beyond the Wilden turn is *BOLNHURST*. In the ch. (*St. Dunstan*), which lies away from the village quite by itself, to the l., are monuments of the Franklins, who

had the manor of Maverns in this parish. There are some remains of their mansion.

1½ m. E. of Bolnhurst village is COLMWORTH. The ch. (*St. Denis*) is of the date 1380. The tower is surmounted by a lofty spire, which is a land-mark to all the country round. It contains the tomb of Eleanor, wife of Sir Gerard Braybrooke, daughter and heiress of Aylmer, Lord St. Amand, who had large possessions in the county in the 14th century. There is also a fine monument to Sir William Dyer, knight, erected by Lady Dyer 1641. The inscription states that they "multiplied themselves into seven children." There are also some quaint verses.

At the threshold of the N. door is a slab to the Rev. T. Parsloe, but whether he was buried in that spot, that all entering might tread upon his grave, or whether the stone has been removed from another place, is uncertain.

On a beam in the manor-house, now a farmhouse, near the ch., is an inscription stating that the house was built for Lady Katharine Dyer in 1609. The family came from Somerset, and Sir William was a son of Justice Dyer, whose daughter-in-law Katharine, who built the house, was daughter and heiress of Sir T. Doyley, of Oxfordshire.

2¼ m. W. of Bolnhurst is THURLEIGH. The *Hervey*s or *Harvey*s were an important family here from the 13th to the 18th century. One of the family was nearly the last Abbess of Elstow (page 36). The slab of the last Hervey, who died 1715, is in the chancel of the ch. A circular moat, with a mound, near the ch., called *Bury Hill*, is perhaps the site of their mansion. *Blackburn* or *Blackbull Hall*, now a farmhouse in a moated site, was the property of the FitzJeffreys, of Creakers, or Crève-cœur, in the parish of Great Barford (page 67).

The ch. (*St. Peter*) is interesting. "The chancel is D. The tower is between the nave and the chancel. The lower part is Nor., and on the S. side it has a curious doorway, with sculptures of Adam and Eve in the tympanum, and zigzag mouldings in the abacus. There are two plain Nor. windows above. The tower stands on Perp. arches, evidently insertions. The nave is of four bays, Perp. The S. aisle is Perp., rather earlier in character than the N. The font is octagonal, with shields round the base, on one of which are the arms of *Hervey*, *three trefoils on a bend*. There are some plain, but good, open seats."—H. A.

In the tower are the following rules for ringing:—

If to ring you do come here,
 You must ring well with hand and ear.
 And, if a bell you chance to throw,
 Six pence to pay before you go.
 And, if you ring in spurs or hat,
 Twelve pence in all to pay for that.

Ringling in spurs was an offence in all belfries. In the church there is also the following inscription:—

A constant churchman lies entombed here,
 Just in his dealings, charitable—were.

“There is a good brass of a *Hervey* in armour, about 1420.”—*H. A.* In the ch.-yard is the stump of a cross.

8 m. further along the high road from the turn to Colmworth, we reach *KEYSOE*. The ch. (*St. Mary*) is $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of the road. It contains a curious E. Eng. font, round the base of which is this inscription in Norman French:—

Trestui qui par ici passerez
 Pour l'ame de Warel priez
 Que Dieu par sa grace
 Vrai merci lui fasse. Amen.

There is also Lombardic lettering on a slab in the N. chapel.

On the outside of the ch. is a very quaint inscription commemorating the providential escape of a man who fell from the top of the spire, which is a very fine one, and lived, notwithstanding his fall, to the age of seventy-three.

1 m. W. of the village is *Keysoe Bury, Berrystead*, or *Bury fields*, now a farmhouse, but probably the original mansion of the *St. Johns* of Keysoe.

1 m. W. of the Bury is the village of *RISLEY*. The ch. (*All Saints*) was given by Alice de Tonbridge to the *Knights Templars*, and was afterwards granted, with most of the property of that order, to the *Hospitallers*. The ch. is a curious building, as the nave and N. aisle are of similar height, and both have clerestory windows, so that it is difficult to say which was the original nave. The N. aisle has perhaps the better claim, as a rood beam may be seen in it, which has been built into the roof. There are inscriptions to the *Hardings*.

2½ m. E. of Keysoe is LITTLE STAUGHTON. This ch. (*All Saints*) also belonged to the Knights Templars, and contains monuments of the families of *Gery of Bushmeade Priory* (page 57) and *Harding*.

2 m. further to the N. along the Kimbolton road is PERTENHALL. The Knights Templars had also the advowson of this ch., and an estate in the parish, where there is a moated site.

The ch. (*St. Peter and St. Paul*) is an interesting one for the visitor who cares for early and unrestored churches, for the aisle arches are Trans. Nor., and there is much E. Eng. work. The N. aisle has at the E. end the effigy of a cross-legged knight, evidently removed from its original position, for it now lies N. and S. The rood-screen is a rich one of Perp. date, with much of the original painting and gilding. In the N. chapel, now used as a vestry, are monuments of the families of *Paradine*, *King*, and *Gray*. The rectory house is a large square Georgian building.

There is an old house at Wood End, near the road, which latter enters Huntingdonshire ½ m. N. of Pertenhall, at the S.E. corner of *Kimbolton Park*.

4 m. N.W. of Pertenhall is MELCHBURN. Here was a Preceptory of Knights Templars, who seem to have possessed considerable property in N. Bedfordshire. The site of their establishment is now occupied by *Melchburn Park*, the residence of the *St. John* family since they left Bletsoe (page 43). The house was built in the time of James I. or Charles I., but the front has been modernised. In the drawing-room are portraits of *Margaret, Countess of Richmond*, and the first *Lord St. John* of Bletsoe.

The ch. (*St. Mary*) is a modern Grecian building, and contains a brass to Robert Pavely, 1877, removed from an earlier ch.

SWINSHEAD, to the W. of Pertenhall, is an outlying part of Huntingdonshire, but W. of this village are four villages in the extreme N. of Bedfordshire, some of which have interesting churches, though the scenery is bare and ugly. This part of the county can be reached from *Kimbolton station* on the Kettering and Huntingdon branch of the Midland, which is situated in Tillbrook parish.

The westernmost of these villages is YILDEN or YELDEN, sometimes written *Iveldean* or *Giveldean*, 1½ m. N.W. of Melchburn. It was the seat of the ancient family of *Traylly*, who were here till 1360 or later. The site of

their castle presents extensive earthworks. The ch. (*St. Mary*) "is interesting, a perfect specimen of Dec. work, with but little alteration." On a recessed tomb are three brasses of the dates 1433, 1617, 1628. The tower is also a good specimen of Dec. work. John Pocklington, who was rector here, preached at Ampthill a sermon on "Sunday no Sabbath," which gave great offence to the Puritans.

1½ m. N. of Yelden is SHELTON. In the ch. (*St. Mary*) are some remains of mural paintings.

1 m. E. is DEAN. The Knights Hospitallers possessed the advowson here until the time of Henry VIII., when it was given to the chapter of the cathedral church of Worcester, who are still the patrons. The ch. (*All Saints*) has a very fine carved roof. The wall plates are ornamented with foliage and shields, and there are fine bosses and figures of angels. At the E. end of the S. aisle is an altar tomb removed from the chancel, with a small brass to Thomas Parkes, rector of the parish, and prebendary of St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, who died 1501. There are also brasses with inscriptions, let into a seat front, to the family of Boswell, merchants and aldermen of London.

3 m. N.E. of Dean, and about 1½ m. from Kimbolton, is TILLBROOK, where the ch. (*All Saints*) possesses a remarkably perfect rood-loft of Perp. character, richly gilt and painted. It is *coved* towards the nave, and on the E. side the original balusters remain. The church is also interesting architecturally, and has Trans. Nor. arches to the N. aisle.

The ecclesiologist who finds himself at Kimbolton will do well to visit all these N. Bedfordshire churches.

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DERBY, 1899.

JOHN NOBLE, General Manager.

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PADDINGTON STATION, March, 1889. General Manager.

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MYLES FENTON,

General Manager.

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WILLIAM BIRT, General Manager.

LONDON, APRIL 1889.

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CHARLES SCOTTER, General Manager.

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April 1889.

By Order.

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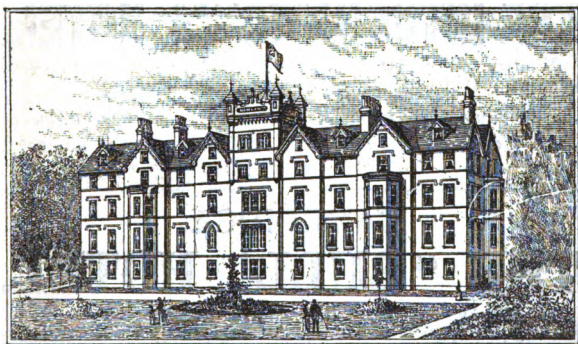
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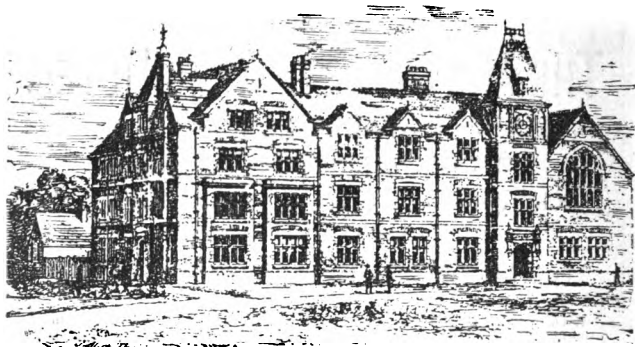
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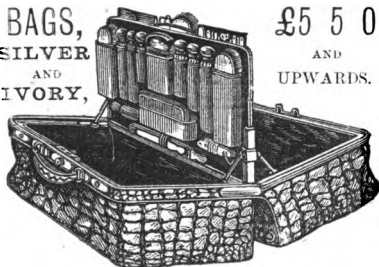
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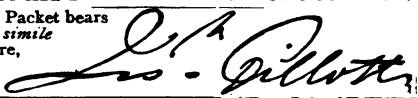
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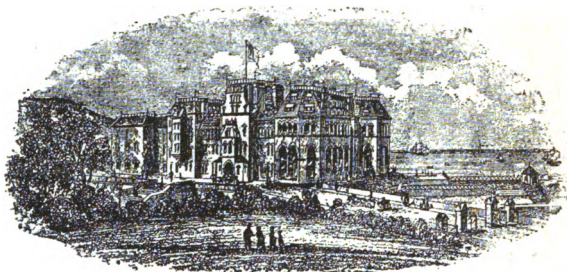
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